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THE TIMES 40p

No. 65,696

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

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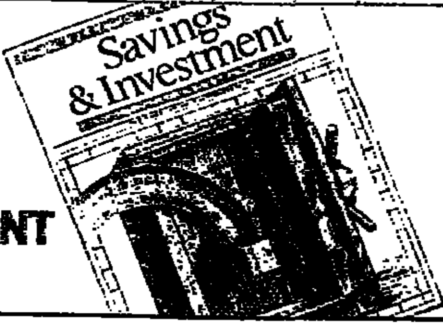

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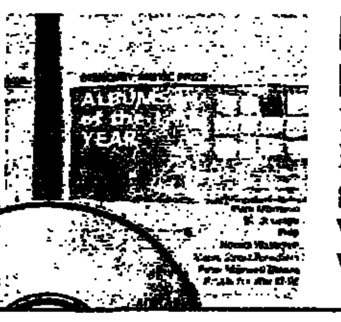

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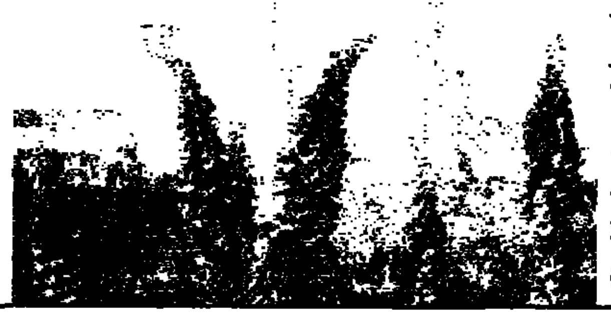
WEEKEND



MONDAY
FRESHERS
THE 24-PAGE STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

To let: des. res. with royal neighbours. Only £20,000 a year

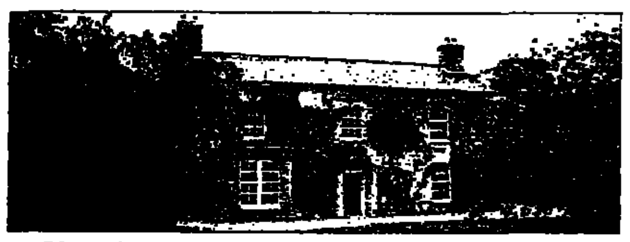
By Rachel Kelly

THE QUEEN has turned to the commercial property market to let a redundant farmhouse on her private estate at Sandringham in Norfolk.

Ling House, a six-bedroom property four miles from the Queen's favourite holiday retreat, will appear in next week's *Country Life* magazine on offer at £20,000 a year for a five-year term, well above the going rate for the area. Would-be tenants are likely to subject to strict vetting, and will have to provide cast-iron character references. Although it is not the first time that the Queen has gone to the open market to let properties on her private estate, tenancies are usually granted to established estate workers or to personal friends. But in both her public and private life, the Queen is under pressure to run her affairs with ever-increasing efficiency.

Next week's advertisement will say simply that Ling House is being let on the instructions of the Sandringham estate. Andrew Jones, of estate agents Glegg Kennedy Drew at Stamford, Lincolnshire, who are handling the let, said yesterday: "I purposely kept the word 'royal' out of the advertisement, otherwise the phones would never have stopped ringing."

Royal sources said yesterday that houses on the Queen's private estate were advertised "from time to time", and that they were let by whatever means was appropriate.



Ling House: premium rental reflects royal cachet

Ling House has been renovated and redecorated recently and has new central heating and a sophisticated alarm system. All reception rooms have open fireplaces; large walled gardens are partly laid to lawn and there is an established orchard. Extensive outbuildings include a games room, office and tack room. The house was previously occupied by a tenant farmer on the estate.

The new tenant will not be able to drive in and out of Sandringham's ornate wrought iron gates: the house has its own drive several miles from the main house bought by Queen Victoria for a wayward Prince of Wales in the forlorn hope that it would lure him away from the fleshpots of London.

Estate agents in Norfolk said yesterday that the level of rent reflected Ling House's royal cachet. David Bedford, of Bedfords estate agents in Burnham Market, said: "The going rate for that kind of property round here is more like £14-15,000. But I think the agents are right that would-be tenants are prepared to pay a 20-25 per cent premium to become a royal neighbour." Mark Stewart, of Bidwells estates agents in Norwich, said: "Someone will be prepared to pay extra for the fact that the house is in excellent condition and the estate is very well kept up. The house is in a lovely spot. It is completely surrounded by countryside and at the end of a track."

Sandringham estate, like Balmoral, is the Queen's private property, and therefore does not publish its annual balance sheet. But it is understood to run at a modest profit. The estate runs to 20,000 acres, of which three-quarters is let to local tenant farmers, while the Queen's own farm extends to 3,300 acres. There are more than 100 houses which are let.

The Queen's own farm is thought to be a particularly lively commercial enterprise, sellings peas and beans to Bird's Eye for freezing, and blackcurrants to SmithKline Beecham for making into Ribena.

Major not for turning on euro-currency

By Philip Webster, political editor

JOHN MAJOR yesterday told politicians trying to move him from his wait-and-see policy on the single currency that they were wasting their time and their breath.

In a clear attempt to cool the single currency dispute before the party conference the week after next, the Prime Minister issued his strongest declaration that the policy agreed by the Cabinet earlier this year would not change.

"If anybody thinks they are rolling me off my position of staying in these negotiations until I am absolutely certain that I have wrung everything out of those negotiations in the British interest then they are wasting their time and their breath," he said.

The single currency negotiations are expected to continue throughout 1997 and into 1998, well beyond the expected election date of May next year.

But Mr Major's words were also designed to prepare the ground for a shift of emphasis in the way he and other ministers defend the policy of refusing to rule out a single currency.

Downing Street sources are making plain that Mr Major's passion about staying in the talks was both about defending Britain's interests and about putting himself in the best position to warn other European countries about the dangers of pressing ahead with monetary union in 1999.

At Thursday's Cabinet meeting Mr Major issued a lengthy warning of the obstacles in the way of monetary union and its potential pitfalls. He is preparing a paper for the Government on the issue.

But his view is also that if an inner core of countries press ahead with an ill-prepared monetary union, much damage could be done to Britain and other countries in the European Union. Britain will be holding the presidency of the EU early in 1998 when the decision about which countries are in the first wave is taken and may even then be in a position to organise an attempt to delay the start of the single currency, some ministers believe.

Mr Major told the Cabinet that big questions had to be answered about monetary union: what would be the impact of a single currency on enlarging the EU, a key British objective: and what would be the relationship between those countries inside and outside a monetary union.

In an interview yesterday with the *Reading Evening Post*, Mr Major strongly defended his policy of staying in the talks. He said: "So I will listen to the noises off, whether from my party or the Labour party, but when I determine European policy I will do what I think is right for the country."

Keeping Britain out of the talks would be indefensible. "How could I defend it to the farmer? How could I defend it to the businessman? How could I defend it to the City? Suppose I had ruled it out and you had said to me: 'They are going to take decisions on this next year, aren't they Prime Minsiter?' And I would say 'Yes' and you would say: 'But you have ruled yourself out of it haven't you? How can you complain if they do things you don't approve of?' I cannot."

Senior Tory sources believe that Mr Major's line, though not the one favoured by most of the party, holds the best hope of maintaining unity in the Government. They believe that any attempt to rule out the single currency would lead to the resignation of Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. Although they fear that ministers will be in for a rough time over Europe at the Bournemouth conference, they believe that the bowing to the sceptics and ruling out a single currency would provoke a party split that would ruin any chances of recovery before the election.

☐ **Italian 'eurotax'**: Italy approved a no-nonsense budget yesterday in a headlong rush to sign up for a single European currency, but economists said they fear the measures could land the economy in full-blown recession. Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said after a 10-hour Cabinet meeting that the heart of the budget would slice 37 trillion lire (£15½ billion) from the public sector deficit. An extra 13 trillion lire would be raised from a one-off Eurotax and a further 12 trillion would be squeezed from "treasury operations".

But economists said a hefty dose of new taxes could deal a body blow to an economy already struggling in the face of flat consumer demand and flagging exports. *(Reuter)*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Karmele Ereno, the Basque girlfriend of the shot IRA suspect, in London

Girl who loved IRA man

By Adrian Lee

THIS is the first published picture of Karmele Ereno, the Basque girlfriend of Diarmuid O"Neill the suspected IRA terrorist shot dead by police in London.

Yesterday, the former English language student was believed to be in hiding in her home town of Amorebieta, near Bilbao, as O'Neill's parents made their first statemnt about their son's death.

Eoghan and Theresa O'Neill, from County Cork, who once lived in Fulham, said they would "grieve for him for the rest of their lives".

In a statement, issued after the release yesterday of their other son, Shane, 23, on bail, they said: "Our eldest son, Diarmuid, was never arrested: he can never be tried, nor can he be acquitted or convicted other than by the press who have not waited to have a full and proper picture before judging him. Instead, those who accused him took the law into their own hands and killed him."

He had been a loving son and they would have stood by him even if convicted.

O'Neill was a regular visitor to the northern Spanish industrial community, where he was known as Ginger.

Senorita Ereno, a Basque separatist sympathiser, arrived in England in 1993 and was a pupil at a West London language school where this photograph was taken.

Four other men were still being held last night.

Basques mourn, Page 3

British Gas halts disconnections in billing chaos

By Martin Waller

BRITISH GAS has been forced to suspend all disconnections after thousands of customers got red final warnings before receiving their bills. Some of those customers have even received disconnection notices, the company admitted last night.

British Gas says it believes the problems are limited to its Leeds and East Anglia administrative areas, which cover up to four million of its 18 million customers. But as a precaution no one will be disconnected anywhere for non-payment until the end of next month, the company has said.

By that time it is hoped the "teething problems", a result of the introduction of a £150 million computerised billing network, will be resolved, a spokeswoman said. The new system will not be fully in place until the end of the year.

The Gas Consumers Council estimates that 15,000 people in East Anglia may have been sent a red reminder before their first blue bill. British Gas says the problems in this area have been resolved, but an unspecified number of customers in and around Leeds, estimated at a few hundred, have been similarly affected.

"As far as we know there are no problems elsewhere," the British Gas spokeswoman said. "There may be some isolated areas we are not yet aware of. In any case, you can be sure we will not be cutting you off during the month of October." But Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said he believed that in some cases disconnections had wrongly been carried out.

British Gas denied anyone had been wrongly disconnected, saying the lengthy process of disconnection included a personal visit to the non-payer. Customers who believe they have been wrongly treated are urged to contact the company directly.

Earlier this week similar computer problems emerged at British Gas's service operation, with claims that large numbers of customers with expensive service contracts had found it impossible to report faults. The company said most calls were being answered.

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BBC in US deal

The BBC is negotiating with two US-controlled companies to launch at least six pay-TV channels there and three in Britain next year....... Page 25

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Dangerous slide towards war in Middle East continues

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

AT LEAST eight more people died yesterday in the worst violence between Palestinians and Israelis for three decades. The total death toll is now nearly 70, and Israel's army chief gave a warning that scores of Israeli tanks stationed in the West Bank and Gaza would be used against the Palestinians if the violence grew worse.

Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak said: "I can only hope we will not have to use the tanks but, if they force us, we will use them as necessary."

At same time American-led diplomatic efforts continued to bring about an urgent peace meeting between Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority. John Major, President Chirac of France and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, also made a joint appeal to the two leaders.

The dangerous slide towards war was increased by Palestinian emotions stirred when Israeli riot squads stormed the Temple Mount, site of the holy al-Aqsa mosque, and fought pitched battles with stone-throwing Palestinian worshippers. Three Palestinians were killed in the exchanges and more than 60 wounded.

In the compund, revered by Muslims around the world as the third holiest spot after Mecca and Medina, a bearded rioter picked-up pieces of brain and wrapped them in his shirt for burial as others around him shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater).

Six of yesterday's victims were Palestinians and two Israeli paramilitary policemen killed in clashes in the West Bank town of Tulkarm. Just outside the normally peaceful oasis town of Jericho, two Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli gunfire and 12 Arabs wounded when Palestinian demonstrators stomred a remote Israeli military outpost.

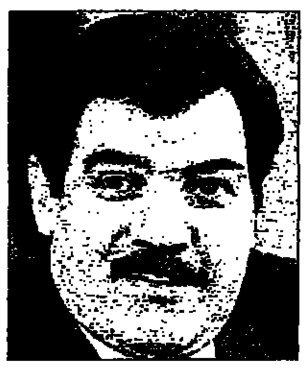
Shadow of war, page 12
Arafat's anger, page 13
David Pryce-Jones, page 20

Najibullah executed by rebels

From Christopher Thomas in Lahore and Zahid Hussain in Islamabad

THE hardline Taleban Islamic militia took control of Kabul, the Afghan capital, yesterday and immediately executed former president Najibullah. His battered body was left hanging by the neck from a concrete traffic gantry.

Najibullah, a Communist, led a Russian-backed government until he was overthrown when anti-government rebels entered the city in April 1992. He attempted to escape but was caught at the airport as he tried to board a plane and had been sheltering inside a United Nations compound ever since. He kept in touch with his family by telephone.



Najibullah: shot dead

Crowds of Afghans came out to see the body hanging beside that of Shahpur Ahmadza, Najibullah's brother and former security chief, who had taken asylum with him after their overthow. Both had been shot beforehand.

Thirst for revenge, Page 11
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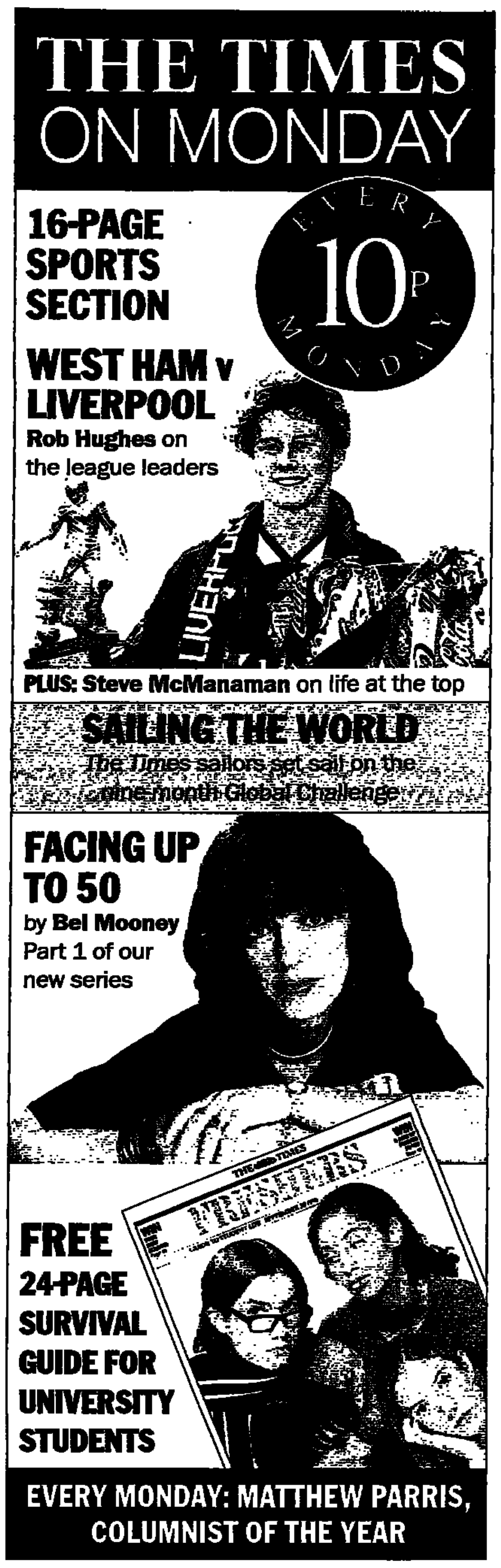
THE TIMES ON MONDAY

EVERY MONDAY 10P

16-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

WEST HAM v LIVERPOOL
Rob Hughes on the league leaders

PLUS: **Steve McManaman** on life at the top

SAILING THE WORLD
The Times sailors set sail on the nine-month Global Challenge

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FREE 24-PAGE SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

EVERY MONDAY: MATTHEW PARRIS, COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

Battle between old and new Labour expected to dominate party conference

Castle mocks Harman on pensions

By Jill Sherman
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS CASTLE of Blackburn last night accused Harriet Harman of "talking through her hat" and attempting to "put the frighteners" on trade unions over the thorny issue of state pensions. Lady Castle, who is leading the campaign to raise state pensions in line with earnings, also hit out at Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, claiming that he was behind a Labour betrayal of the welfare state.

Ms Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary seeking to avert a defeat on pensions at the party conference on Wednesday, said that Lady Castle's plans would reduce occupational schemes by £550 per person.

The battle between old Labour and new Labour looks set to dominate the party conference in Blackpool next week with damaging rows over child benefit and taxation, as well as pensions. The leadership faces possible defeat over its plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds and to rule out tax increases for those earning under £100,000, and its failure to raise pensions substantially.

Lady Castle is conducting a series of television interviews to press her case for the restoration of the link between state pensions and earnings, which is reflected in a series of conference motions. Ms Harman plans to counter every interview with a defence of her plans to focus on poorer pensioners.

In an interview with *Newsnight* on BBC2 last night, Lady Castle insisted her plans would only cost £3.5 billion and denied her intention was to raid occupational pension schemes. "When Harriet Harman alleges that we are proposing to abolish the rebates and thus reduce the pension fund of everybody in an occupational scheme by £550 a year, she's talking through her hat . . . we're not trying to take that away. Harriet Harman is going around the trade unions trying to put the frighteners on them."

She said that there was "no doubt that the force behind this, pulling everybody into line, is Gordon Brown. But why on earth should we start saying, as he's done over his child benefit policy, 'why give it to the millionaire'? That is the classic argument of those who are against the welfare state."

In her interview Lady Castle denied that she was trying to derail new Labour and said that she wanted Tony Blair to win the election. "I'm not a wrecker. Never have been, never will be," she said. "But I have a conscience and I couldn't die happy without putting up a fight for something which my whole history, 70 years of public life, tells me that a civilised society must have."

Meanwhile, Ms Harman repeated her warning that Labour could not afford Lady Castle's proposals. The party instead wants to target the 700,000 poorest pensioners by encouraging them to take up benefits to which they are already entitled. She made clear on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 that she was not pledging extra cash, other than that already budgeted for social security spending plans.

Baroness Castle: denied that she was a wrecker

Salmond dismisses Labour as 'old Tory'

By Shirley English

ALEX SALMOND, the Scottish National Party leader, yesterday dismissed new Labour as nothing but "Old Tories, Tartan Tories".

Addressing the SNP conference in Inverness, he called on the people of Scotland to seize their destiny and choose independence: "We do not blame the English or anyone else for the current state of Scotland. The condition of Scotland is the inescapable responsibility of every adult Scot because we alone have the solution in our hands."

He told delegates that the SNP was in its strongest position ever to mount a challenge at a general election — approaching 30 per cent in the polls and with more money and resources at its disposal.

An independent Scotland would prosper, he argued, citing the growth of the Irish economy. Scotland had a wealth of natural resources, an educated workforce, a well-developed industrial base and a host of natural beauties, he said. "Scotland is a small nation but we don't have to think small. Scotland will flourish when we rule ourselves."

Labour had taken 100 years to fail to introduce constitutional change, he said. "It is more and more obvious that the time for independence is now. The Labour Party has had its chance." Labour was going through an identity crisis, he said. "They are not social democrats or democratic socialists. Not even new Labour. They are just old Tories. Blair, Brown, Cook — Scotland's Tartan Tories."

JEFF MITCHELL

Alex Salmond after his conference speech yesterday

Don't go too fast Prescott, tells Blair

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN PRESCOTT has given warning that Tony Blair should not go too fast in trying to modernise Labour, or risk hitting "the buffers".

In an interview in *The Times* Magazine today, the party's deputy leader explains how he sees it as his role to try to influence and discuss the new ideas pushed forward by Mr Blair. Just before the annual Labour conference, Mr Prescott speaks about Mr Blair's relentless desire for change. "Tony's very strongly of the view that you just don't stop. He wants to keep the party adjusting. I think he's right about that.

"The real problem is: how far do you go without derailing . . . The more you pile on the change, the more people feel a little uneasy."

Mr Prescott explains that he changed his mind after originally being against the rewriting of Clause 4, which had enshrined Labour's commitment to public ownership. "Blair was right. I was wrong."

He speaks warmly of his relationship with Mr Blair: "It's good to work for a leader who knows what he wants."

Labour's lawyers, page 20

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cash-strapped DVLA halts tax disc checks

A Government campaign against road tax evasion has been shelved until after the general election because the Department of Transport has no money available to implement it. The revenue raising attack on tax dodgers, who cost the Treasury £160 million a year, was announced by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, at last year's Conservative Party conference.

Under the scheme, the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency was given powers to clamp cars which had not been taxed and fine their owners. A trial in west London this year was judged an unqualified success after 6,000 more licence discs than usual were bought in the London area in two months. However, plans to extend the scheme to the rest of Britain, have been put on ice because of spending constraints. The project has been shown to pay for itself many times over, but the extra revenue raised goes to the Treasury, which will not pass the money to the DVLA.

Stonehenge reprieved

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, announced that plans for a dual carriageway through the Stonehenge site, opposed by archaeological and heritage groups, will not be implemented. He added that the most widely supported option, a £300 million tunnel under the stones, was too expensive. This effectively postpones a decision on rerouting the A303 until after the general election.

Mother fights baby order

A mother who is refusing to allow doctors to perform a liver transplant on her baby is appealing against a High Court order requiring her to return her son to Britain for surgery. The 27-year-old woman, who left the country when a suitable transplant became available, claims that when her son was seven months old she was "coerced" into signing a hospital consent form for him to have the operation.

Ulster labour of love

George Mitchell said yesterday that his chairmanship of the Northern Ireland multi-party talks was a labour of love. In his first interview for a British or Irish paper since taking up the post in June, the former US Senator said he had come to admire the people of Northern Ireland despite slow progress at the talks. He told the *Belfast Telegraph*: "My living expenses are paid. That's the extent of it . . . I am a volunteer."

Scout leader jailed

A Scout leader was jailed for seven years at the Old Bailey for sexually abusing eight boys. Brian Jupp, 57, a former photographer from Surrey, admitted 14 charges of indecent behaviour covering ten years. Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, said: "He was unbelievably nice and everybody liked him." David Lane, QC, defending, said Jupp was abused as a child, once by a parish priest.

Revenge's tangled web

An air traffic controller whose wife left him took revenge on his arachnaphobic rival by dangling a five-inch spider in front of him. Kevin Knight had trouble sleeping and had to be prescribed tranquillisers after Tony Smith threw the spider at him. Smith admitted causing actual bodily harm. The hearing at Salisbury Magistrates' Court was adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

Adams endures radio phone-in onslaught

By A Staff Reporter

RADIO listeners yesterday accused Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, of terrorist links. Tom Hanley, a former soldier from Sheffield, who served in Ulster, told him on BBC Radio 5: "You are a terrorist, or have been an active terrorist . . . you have created a monster in Northern Ireland in the past 25 years."

Mr Adams replied: "You . . . came to my country heavily armed as part of an army, and then you have the audacity to call me a terrorist."

Terry Phillips, from Wirral, Merseyside, told fellow listeners: "Hide your children from this man, he and his organisation maim and kill British children. They have done it before and they will do it again . . . he is an evil man and a disgusting coward."

Mr Adams, in London to promote his autobiography, *Before the Dawn*, answered: "There is no need to respond to that, this man is obviously emotionally unhinged." He insisted: "I was not, am not, a member of the IRA."

On a Talk Radio phone-in, a north London listener asked Mr Adams if he thought placing a bomb in a shopping centre was an act of war.

Mr Adams told him: "It is obviously an act of war. I do not want to see anyone killed . . . What we have to do is end the war, by treating it as a serious political issue."

BA staff in regions face 33% pay cut

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is considering a pay cut of more than a third for hundreds of staff to save millions of pounds and make its regional operations profitable. The airline recently announced an overall profit of £585 million.

Nearly 1,000 cabin crew and ground staff have already been given detailed proposals of reductions in basic pay. They are the only direct employees of British Airways Regional, which operates a fleet of 31 aircraft on routes in the UK and Europe.

All other staff — pilots, engineers, baggage handlers, sales staff and managers — are technically employed by the main British Airways company and "sub-contracted" to BAR. Now those employees working at regional airports face a pay cut as part of a tough new campaign to make every section of the airline financially successful.

The regional operation, which was set up in 1992, has consistently lost money. In 1993 it made a loss of £55 million but by cutting unprofitable routes and increasing efficiency that has now dropped to £10 million.

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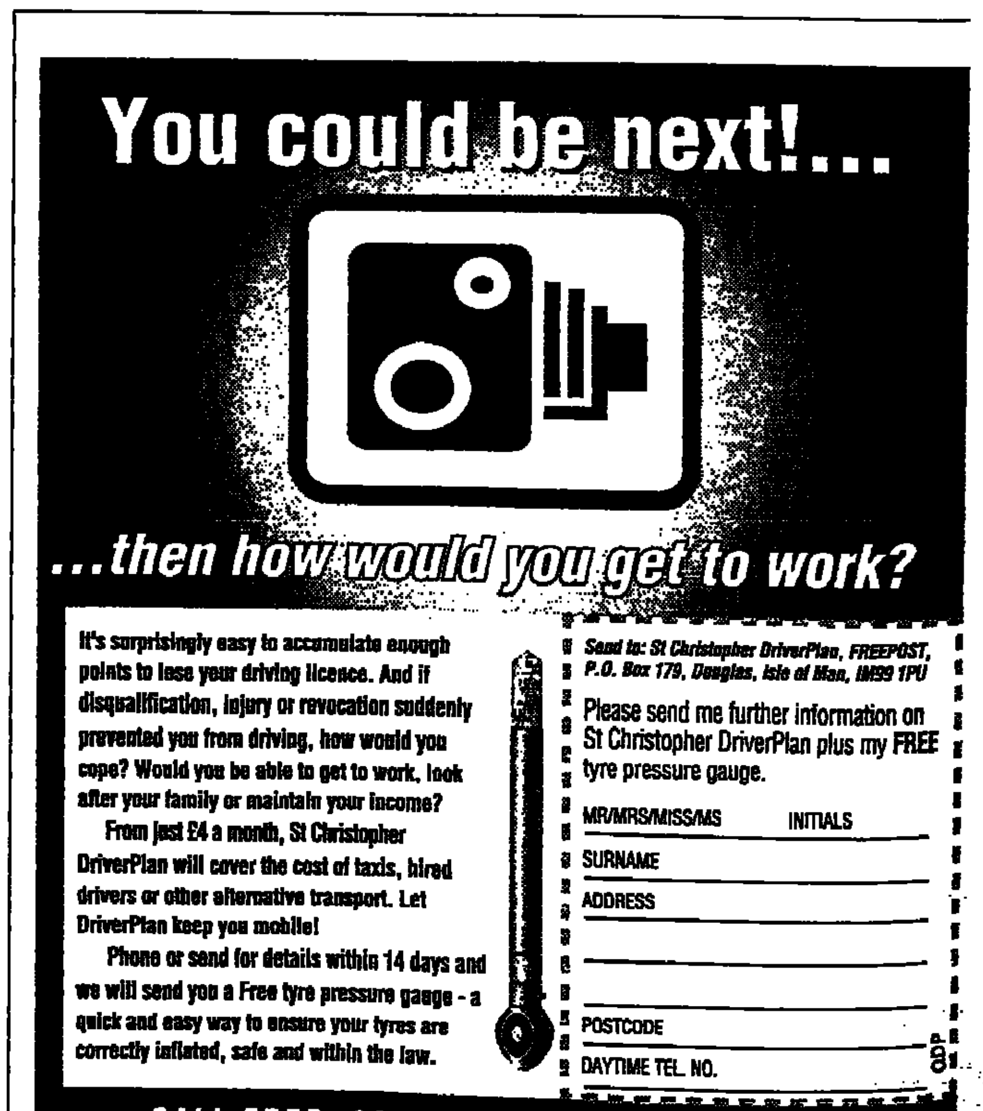
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An old man begs: 'Please give me a picture of him — this Irishman is our new hero'

In a Basque bar, the Irish tricolour is draped in black

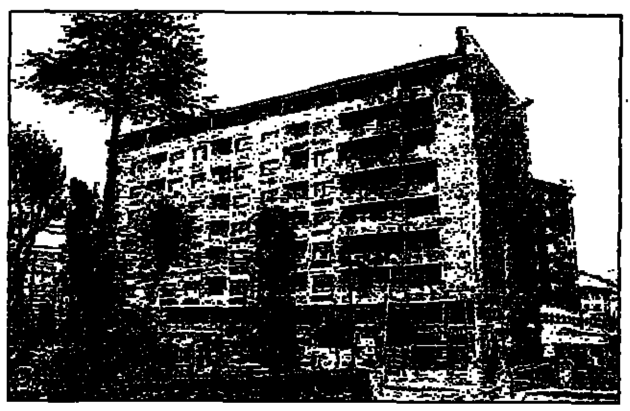
From Edward Owen in Amorebieta

BASQUE separatists had a new hero to toast last night as the region commemorated the anniversary of the last two Eta terrorists to be executed in Spain.

Diarmuid O'Neill, 27, who was shot dead by a marksman during last Tuesday's police raids in London, was the boyfriend of Karmele Ereño, also 27, the only daughter of a well-to-do family in Amorebieta, near Bilbao.

"My God, that's Ginger," gasped a young assistant at the chemist's when she saw a newspaper report. "I can't believe it. He was here in the summer for the fiestas. You couldn't miss him — with his red hair and his height."

Señora Ereño, who lives on the fifth floor of a modern apartment block adjoining the tiny single track railway station, was last seen by a neighbour on Monday, hours before O'Neill was killed. Both came from middle to upper class families with no known connections with political violence. No one in the town, a hotbed of Basque nationalism, could say for sure yesterday that the dark-haired girl was either a fervent radical or even suspected of belonging to Eta. But, by apparent coincidence, she lives in the same building as Jon Idigoras, 60, the fiery leader of Eta's political wing, Herri Batasuna (People's Unity). Señor Idigoras, who is the Gerry Adams of the Basques, claimed he did not know Señora Ereño personally and had not met O'Neill. "My message to the family is from a town that is suffering the same problem as the Irish and is of absolute solidarity," he said as he walked his dog between tenement blocks and decaying factories. He has met Gerry Adams several times and is a great admirer.


The flats in Amorebieta, home to Ereño and Idigoras

He compared the killing of O'Neill, who was unarmed, with "the dirty wars" waged by the Spanish Gal anti-terrorist unit against Eta. The separatist leader, who has been jailed six times, said the IRA and Eta had in common the right to demand self-determination. He said, with a wry smile, that he did not know whether they collaborated.

At the social club, Herriko Taberna (the People's Tavern), the Irish tricolour and the Basque national flag, the Ikurrina, were draped with black on the wooden panelled walls. The Irish nationalist song, *A Nation Once Again*, was belting out of the loudspeakers and Sinn Fein lapel pins were on sale alongside those from Central American revolutionaries.

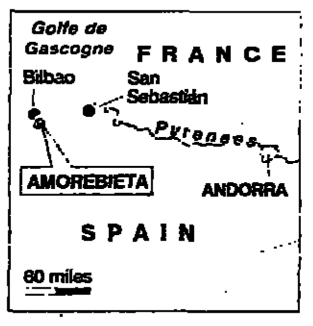
It was from here that friends of O'Neill and his girlfriend placed a death notice in the local separatist paper, *Egin*. "Please give me a picture of him," an old man had begged outside in the street, refusing to give his name. "My son is serving 15 years for being with Eta. This Irishman is our new hero."

The barmaid, Mireira, gave her approval of violence. "Unfortunately, I did not have the privilege of meeting Ginger," she said, pointing to pictures on the wall of local lads in prison or shot by police for terrorist activities.

Near by, Señora Ereño's sister-in-law said: "I feel as though I have lost a brother-in-law." She refused to say where the suspected IRA man's lover was hiding.

O'Neill's parents had sent a card from their home in Co Cork to his girlfriend just three days before he was killed. Yesterday it was waiting for her at home.

It was addressed to the



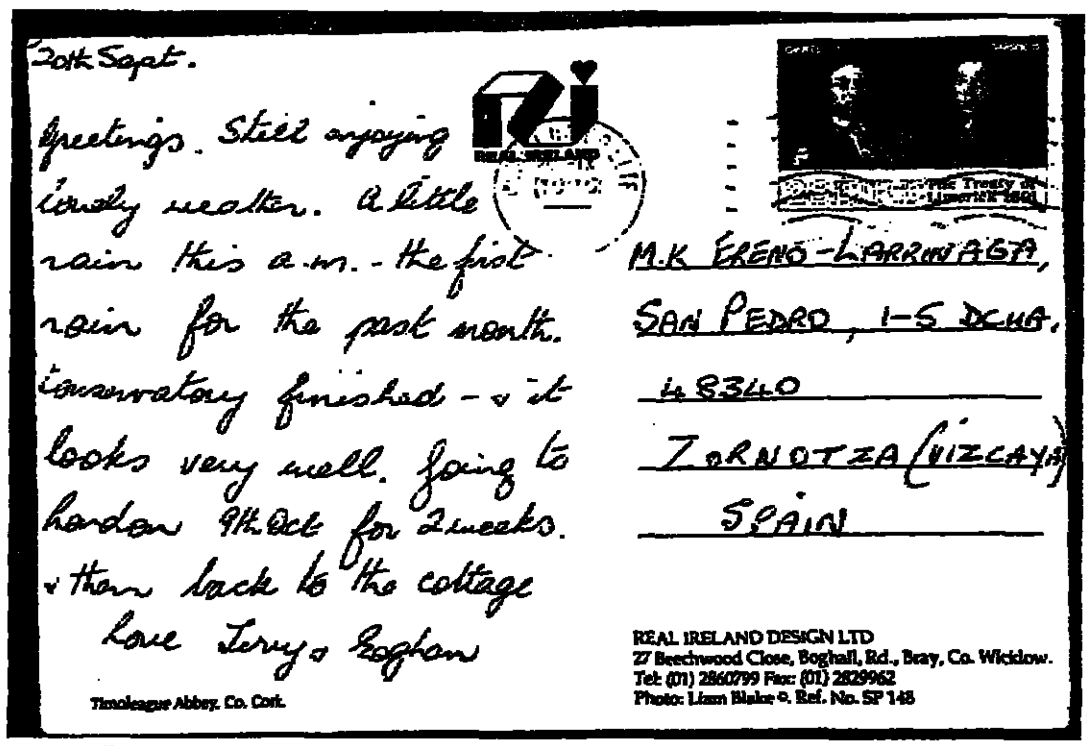
Zornotza, the Basque name for Amorebieta. Señora Ereño has two brothers. Her mother died a decade ago and her father, a senior manager at the local aluminium factory, died three years ago aged 62. "She was determined to make a go of it on her own and went to London to learn English," said Josefina Beaseoechea, who runs the café under the family apartment. "Her father doted on her."

In this tough community, united by the fight against high unemployment and support for, or fear of, Eta, even the British owner of the local Chiswick School of English, refused to give his name. "She enrolled for classes during the last two years but spent most of her time in London."

She was a pupil at a small language school in west London in September 1993, where she completed a five-week course. One of her former tutors there said: "She was a perfectly pleasant girl who was very keen to learn." It was in a London pub that she is believed to have met O'Neill, who later moved in with her.

Yesterday a makeshift flame burned, as it did in all Basque towns, at a crossroads in remembrance of the executed Basque terrorists. It will not be long before O'Neill's picture joins theirs on the wall of the People's Tavern.

Letters, page 21


20th Sept.

Greetings. Still enjoying lovely weather. a little rain this a.m. - the first rain for the past month. conservatory finished - & it looks very well. Going to London 9th Oct for 2 weeks. & then back to the cottage

Love Terry & Eoghan

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"A little rain ... the conservatory finished": domestic familiarity on a postcard sent to Karmele Ereño by Diarmuid O'Neill's parents

Conductor in crowd picks up the baton

By Kathryn Knight

AN ORCHESTRA whose conductor fell ill in the middle of a performance struck lucky when there was not only a doctor in the house, but also a conductor.

William Boughton collapsed in pain during the interval of a concert by the English Symphony Orchestra at Cheltenham Town Hall, leaving the 49-piece orchestra without their conductor of 16 years at the helm.

Fortunately Lawrence Foster, an internationally renowned American conductor, was at the concert with a friend. Realising what had happened, he offered to help and, in casual shirt and trousers, conducted the orchestra through Mozart's Piano Concerto No 15 and Haydn's London Symphony.

Mr Foster, a musical director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra who has conducted orchestras around the world, was in Britain to settle his daughter into a school in Oxford. He had decided to attend the Cheltenham concert to watch his friend, the piano soloist Radu Lupu, play, and was backstage when he heard a call for a doctor in the house.

During the frenzied activity that followed he realised the orchestra was left without a conductor and volunteered his services.

Mr Boughton, who founded the Malvern-based English Symphony Orchestra, was taken to hospital where he was found to have a kidney stone. He was given painkillers and was resting yesterday.

Foster parents of sex-attack boy to sue council

By Ian Murray

A COUNCIL is facing legal action from the foster parents of a disturbed teenager who sexually assaulted their four children.

The parents claim Essex County Council failed to give them advance warning that the 15-year-old boy they were asked to foster had a background of indecent assault. He assaulted all four of their children, all then aged under 12, before they found out what he was doing. The council denies liability although it has offered the couple an out-of-court settlement, which the family has turned down.

Unless Essex is prepared to accept liability and agree a higher level of compensation, the family is threatening to take the authority and the social worker who placed the boy to the High Court.

The council said in a statement yesterday: "The matter was fully investigated by our social services department two years ago. It is currently in the hands of our insurers and there is nothing more we can say at this stage."

The couple have split up as a result of what happened and the four children have needed extensive psychiatric treatment. The boy, who pleaded guilty to indecent assault at a juvenile court, has been sent to a young offenders' centre.

The parents had considerable experience with children in need of care, having served as unqualified carers for a number of years at hostels and play schemes run by the council. That meant they were accepted onto a register of people prepared to look after difficult teenagers, including those who had been sexually abused. During their two months' training they were told that although they would be given difficult children they would never have to care for anyone who might be a danger to their family.

They had successfully fostered six teenagers before being asked to take on for a six-week assessment the thin, bespectacled youth who was later to assault their children. They felt particularly sorry for him because the social worker who had been looking after the boy for two years explained that he had been abused by his father, a convicted paedophile.

They say now that had they known the boy had been put in care in the first place because he had sexually assaulted a seven-year-old girl, they would not have let him into their home with their four children, two of them girls.

Things began to go wrong soon after the boy came to live with them. The four children began to appear fearful whenever he was about. They rang the council and were told for the first time that the boy had been in need of counselling. It was then that they asked the council to take him away.

Over the next two days they learnt from their two younger children that the boy had assaulted them, threatening that they would be taken from their home if he could not have his way. It took months, however, before the full story came out of the series of humiliating acts that the boy performed on the elder children.

Beardsley signs for cut-price M&S fantasy football team

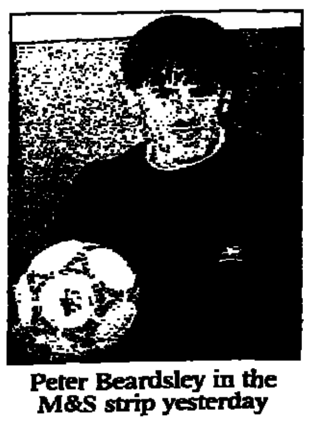
By A Staff Reporter

PARENTS across the nation groaned when Alan Shearer moved to Newcastle United. His transfer meant yet another costly shopping trip to buy a new soccer strip.

Enter Marks & Spencer, who announced a five-year deal yesterday to design and sell a new range of football kit endorsed by the FA Premier League. The M&S kit will be nearly 50 per cent cheaper than strips sold to fans by FA Premier League clubs.

However, the M&S "fantasy football" strip will not be identifiable as that of any particular team. "Our strip is designed to make people wonder which club the wearer could be supporting," an M&S spokeswoman said yesterday.

A different view was offered by a spokesman for the Soccer Scene sports shop in London. "Dedicated fans will not be


Peter Beardsley in the M&S strip yesterday

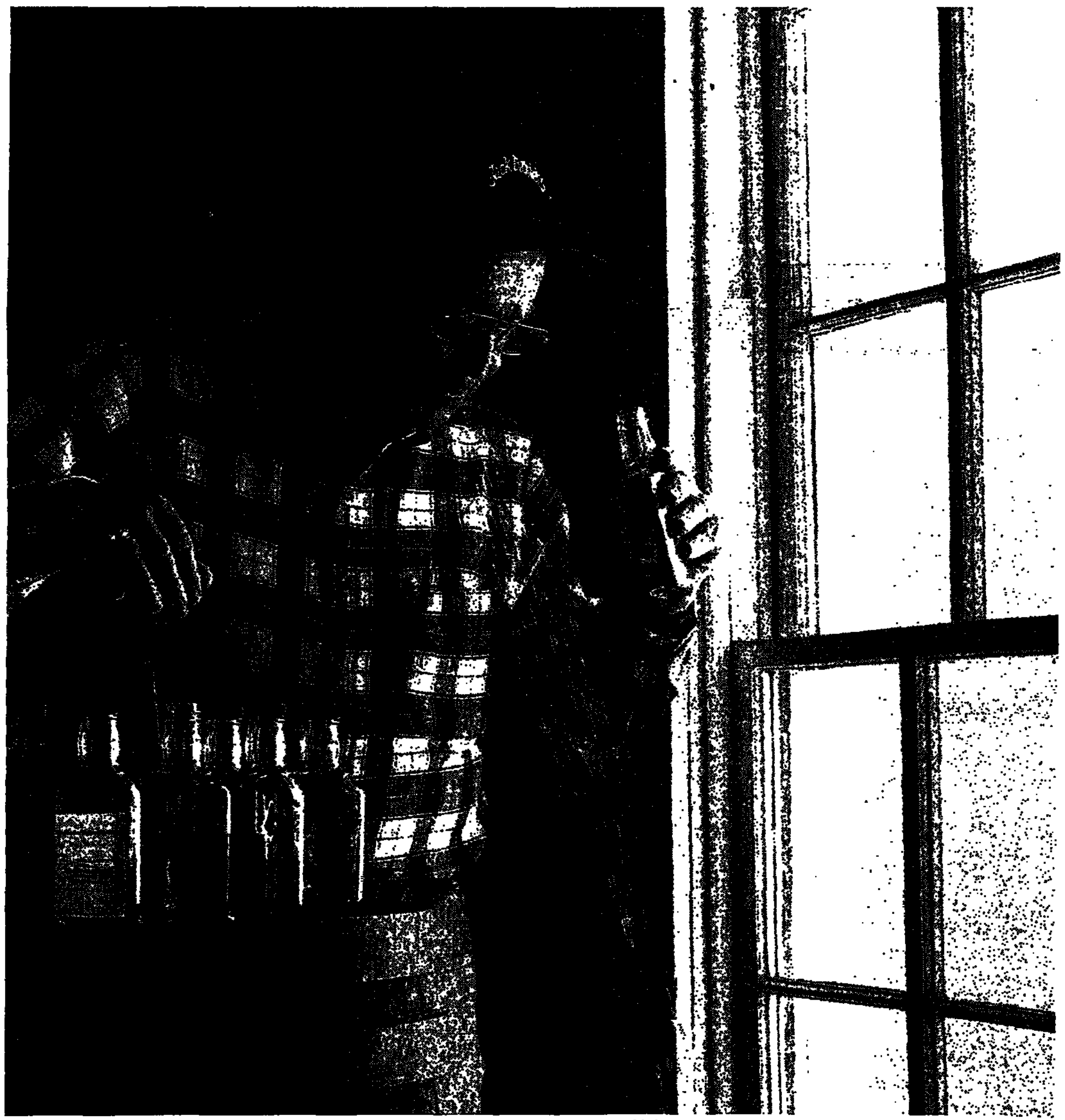
he said firmly. The M&S range was modelled yesterday by Peter Beardsley and four other Newcastle team members, whose home kit tops sell to fans at £36.99.

By contrast, the M&S Premier League shirt, in burgundy and navy and with only discreet lettering to indicate the Premier League connection, will cost £20. The cheapest Premier League shirts are Derby County's home (white and black) or away (red with black collar) strips, priced at £33. Shirts in Manchester United's red home strip and white and red bordered away strip both sell at £40.

The burgundy and navy colours chosen by M&S are closest to the home strips of Aston Villa (described as claret and blue) and West Ham (claret with blue sleeves).

The M&S range includes 15 items, ranging from goalkeepers' tops, through hoods, joggers and track suits, to holdalls, bootbags and baseball caps. Childrenswear versions of the most popular items are available in three different sizes from £9.

The multimillion-pound contract to manufacture the M&S kit has been won by Claremont Garments, a company with factories in the North East which has been supplying ladieswear to M&S for almost 30 years.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Rules to be changed after student juggles grades to gain university place

Examiners close A-level loophole

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

A LOOPHOLE allowing students to improve grades by manipulating their A levels is to be closed. Government examination officials are said to be "very concerned" that a student rejected by a university was able to switch marks from one A level to another to alter his grades and claim a place.

University College London, which turned away the student when it learnt that he had a B grade in mathematics and a C in further mathematics, was astonished when he returned days later with two B grades. It was obliged to take him even though his place had already been given to someone else.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has now ordered the rules to be changed. *The Times* disclosed earlier this month that such juggling was possible by candidates taking new-style modular A levels. Modular courses have attracted controversy over standards since they were introduced because students are examined in each section of the course once they complete it, and are allowed unlimited re-takes of these units if they are not satisfied with their grades.

Each mathematics modular A level is made up of four units from a choice of thirteen. Further mathematics students simply selected a further four units and were allowed until the end of this month to accept the grades awarded, or keep some and retake others. They could also combine the units in different ways.

The UCL applicant who was disappointed by his results was allowed by the London Examinations board to switch high-scoring units from his B grade in mathematics with those in his further mathematics A level.

The board said it was only following rules laid down by the authority. Adrian Woodthorpe, director of operations at the board, said very few students improved their grades by switching modular units round instead of taking extra papers.

Peter Saunders, professor of applied mathematics at King's College London and a spokesman for the London Mathematical Society, said he feared that modular juggling could have devalued standards in mathematics.

He said: "I am just a little disappointed that nobody had noticed this apparent loophole in the first place. Thank goodness common sense has prevailed."

Most Labour voters 'back subsidies for school fees'

By David Charter

MORE than half of Labour voters support a scheme for subsidising places at independent schools, which the party has pledged to scrap, a poll disclosed yesterday.

The Assisted Places Scheme, which funds school fees for parents on low incomes, was backed by 55 per cent of Labour supporters in research commissioned by the Independent Schools Information Service. The poll also showed nearly half of all parents would choose an independent school if they could afford it because they believed standards were higher than in the state sector.

However, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that those questioned were not told about the party's proposed alternative use for the £118 million spent on assisted places — smaller classes for all five, six and seven-year-olds.

Mr Blunkett said: "People recognise that every government must prioritise limited resources. A far more popular use of the money will be ensuring that 500,000 youngsters are in class sizes of 30 or under rather than just over 30,000 having subsidised private school places."

The poll also showed that 64 per cent of Liberal Democrat voters questioned backed the scheme, which the Government has promised to expand, and to which the Liberal Democrats are also opposed.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said: "This poll shows just how out of touch Labour and the Liberal Democrats are with public opinion, even among their own supporters, in their implacable opposition to the Assisted Places Scheme."

The MORI poll was published on the eve of the annual conference of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, the body representing the country's leading independent schools. Nearly 2,000 adults were interviewed in 150 locations last month. For the first time in the annual survey more than half those questioned had heard of the Assisted Places Scheme.

☐ A further education college in Wales has become the first in Britain to open its own police station, in the hope that closer contact with the force will help to keep its students out of trouble with the law (John O'Leary writes).

The station, at Pembrokeshire College, will be manned three days a week. The four officers, from the Dyfed-Powys force, will be involved in training courses on motor vehicle law and drug and alcohol misuse, as well as performing their normal duties.

Richard Collins, the college's marketing director, said: "The police are not here to make drugs raids or keep order — we have our own security people for that. We want to break down the barriers that suddenly arise when people get to the age of 17 or 18 and a 'them and us' attitude takes over."

The new courses will enable the officers to train students to become counsellors on alcohol and drug abuse. The college authorities believe that students will be more receptive to warning messages from their peers than from staff.

Representatives of the 6,000 students welcomed the initiative as a contribution to their security. One of the officers' tasks will be to keep unauthorised people away from the campus so that drug-pushers are prevented from harassing the students.

PHIL REES

Kate Aldcroft and her bagpipes facing the outside world at Swansea yesterday after 25 days in isolation

Time flies for body clock guineapig

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A WOMAN kept in an isolated capsule for nearly a month emerged yesterday to find she had lost five days of her life. She had been taking part in studies at the University College of Swansea into how the body clock works.

For 25 days Kate Aldcroft has been living in a specially adapted, windowless room in the university's science block without clocks or a watch. To make sure she got no time clues from the outside world, television, radio and contact with other people were banned.

During the confinement, Ms Aldcroft, a third-year anthropology student from Wakefield, was asked to play *Amazing Grace* on her bagpipes twice a day. She was told to play the melody at what she thought was the same time each day.

Psychologists believe that she "lost" five days from her mental calendar during her incarceration. Professor Simon Folkard, who carried out the experiment, said that without any reference to real time the student's biological clock had shifted to a 30-hour day.

There was a vast difference in the times she played the tune and in the way she played it. "She has been sleeping up to 16 hours at a time and probably thinks it is morning each time she wakes up. In fact, the time of day was slowly slipping back," Professor Folkard said.

Ms Aldcroft emerged thinking it was last Sunday. To keep busy she read, exercised and did college work. "I did not feel lonely and I did not miss television or radio for a minute. In fact, I feel quite relaxed and I would recommend a spell in isolation to everyone," she said, adding: "I'm going down the pub now, that's for sure."

Professor Folkard said the study, supported by the Medical Research Council, would be used to understand the biological processes behind jet lag. Sensors attached to Ms Aldcroft's body had revealed two kinds of biological clocks at work, a sleep rhythm and a different temperature rhythm, one on a 30-hour day and one on a 24-hour day.

The data could also help to reduce accidents by sleepy night workers. Professor Folkard said: "There is a greater tendency for accidents to happen on night shifts when workers' biological clocks are upset by missing sleep. If we can understand the problems we can begin to solve them."

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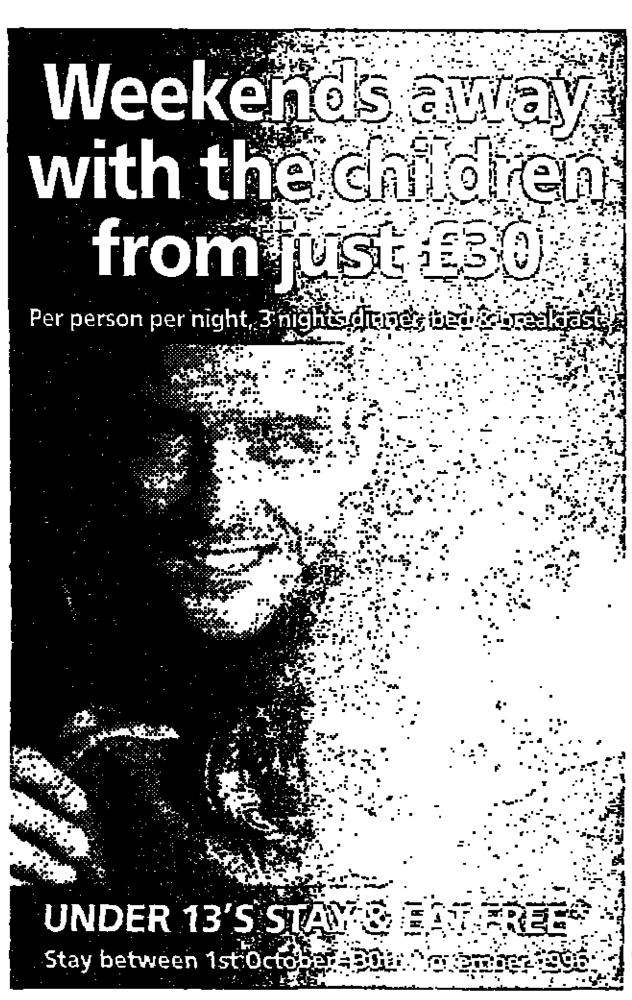

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Forty accuse British cigarette companies of failing to minimise risk posed by tar

Law firms to fund group action by victims of smoking

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

FORTY people suffering from lung cancer are to sue British tobacco companies in a ground-breaking legal action funded by the lawyers themselves.

In the first group lawsuit to be brought in this country by smokers, a team of lawyers led by Leigh Day & Co, a leading personal injuries law firm, is to sue Imperial Tobacco and Gallahers on a "no win, no fee" basis. The lawyers' decision to fund the cases in this way follows an unsuccessful four-year battle for legal aid.

The solicitors and barristers involved will themselves have to meet up to £3 million in legal and other experts' fees. If the lung cancer victims lose, they would be liable for the tobacco companies' legal costs — which could also reach £3 million. But it is unlikely that the companies would pursue elderly or infirm victims for legal costs they did not have.

Martyn Day, joint senior partner of Leigh Day & Co, which will co-ordinate the claims from a number of law firms, said: "Following the decision by the Legal Aid Board in July, arrived at after the board had been inundated with five sets of representations from tobacco companies, it was clear that the only way for the tobacco victims to gain access to justice in the British courts was for lawyers to take on the cases through the no win, no fee scheme. I was of the view before the board's decision that the claims are strong — I am still of that view.

"I am grateful to the lawyers who have joined us for being prepared to join us in putting our money where our mouths are." It is expected that several hundred other lung cancer sufferers might join the action.

The Leigh Day team coordinating the action includes Daniel Brennan, QC, who is president of the Personal Injury Bar Association, and Professor Mark Mildred, of Nottingham Law School, an expert on group actions.

"To be fair to the Legal Aid Board, these are complex cases and clearly difficult, so I am not being that critical of them. But as a lawyer I have always felt strongly that these cases are good cases and doing them on a no win, no fee basis seemed the only way."

The claims against the two companies, which account for 80 per cent of the cigarette market, are based on the companies' alleged failure to comply with their duty to minimise risk to smokers by voluntarily reducing tar levels. This, the lawyers argue, should have been done when it became clear in the late 1950s that the tar component in tobacco that was causing cancer in many smokers.

It is the victims' case that the failure to reduce the tar levels caused or materially contributed to the onset of their cancer. If the claim succeeds, it could pave the way for hundreds more similar claims. More than 30,000 people die from lung cancer a year in Britain as a result of smoking.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, introduced "no win, no fee" cases a year ago for personal injury cases, insolvency and human rights cases.

How the battle for legal aid was lost

By Frances Gibb

A DECISION in the American Supreme Court in 1992 paved the way for litigation against the tobacco companies. The court ruled that people could sue, even though the Government had issued warnings about the dangers of smoking.

Martyn Day, a lawyer who has fought a number of high-profile cases against big corporations, said: "That was the trigger. We felt there was a change in atmosphere that occurred and that it was worthwhile looking at the possibility of claims." Leigh Day & Co, one of the biggest legal aid firms in the country, advertised for potential claimants. About 300 were assembled and an application made for legal aid to local committees: they were turned down twice. Judicial review proceedings were brought against the Legal Aid Board. But in the summer of 1993, the board refused legal aid to bring the judicial review. Later that year the lawyers took judicial review proceedings against the board over this refusal and won.

Armed with legal aid, they returned to court over the original board refusal and won a referral back to the legal aid area committee. The committee finally granted legal aid to investigate the smoking claims in January last year.

However, when it came to the application for full legal aid to bring the actions, the tobacco companies mounted strenuous opposition and in July this year the board refused to grant public funds for the action.

STUART HARRISON

Violet Rumsey says that she went from young to old overnight after an operation to remove a diseased lung

Stars lit way down tobacco road

By Peter Foster

THREE former smokers involved in the fight for compensation after operations to remove lungs spoke yesterday of the toll that tobacco has taken on their lives.

Anthony Bywater took up smoking to imitate his screen idols, James Dean and Humphrey Bogart. He was 16 and had just left school to start work assembling bicycle parts in Birmingham.

Thirty-five years later, in 1990, lung cancer was diagnosed and Mr Bywater had three operations to have a lung removed. The surgery was successful but now, at 57, he is continually breathless and almost immobile.

"It was the thing to do, the big screen stars all smoked and so did your mates. Once one person started we all did," he said. By the time he was 18, Mr Bywater was smoking 20 of his favourite Park Drive untipped, extra-strength cigarettes a day. Over the next 30 years his consumption steadily increased to up to 50 a day.

Bywater: influenced by Bogart and James Dean

His quality of life has deteriorated: "I suffer from terrible catarrh every morning, am always out of breath and can't walk more than about 20 yards at a time. Climbing up the stairs leaves my heart pounding," he said.

Mr Bywater has been forced to retire and is living on state benefits. He would spend any damages on a car and possibly a house away from the traffic fumes of Birmingham.

Martin Margolis, 74, thinks the fact that his father was a heavy smoker may have contributed to his starting, but more likely it was because he was weak-minded and followed everyone else. By the time he entered the RAF as a groundcrew member servicing a fighter squadron, he was smoking 20 or 30 untipped cigarettes a day.

After an operation in 1982, Mr Margolis said, he spent four years almost totally housebound. During that time his giftware wholesaling business failed and he lost his £350,000 home in London.

"I am now totally breathless. I can't play golf any more. I have also become more emotional than I used to be and at times cannot speak for lack of breath," he added.

Mr Margolis has become a virulent anti-smoker since his operation. "If I find myself sitting next to a smoker in a restaurant these days, I have to move to another table or leave altogether. It's the very thought of smoking I can't bear."

Violet Rumsey, 67, was a more reluctant convert. She continued to smoke despite an operation in 1985 to remove half her lung and three ribs. She is still able to move around with relative ease. Before the operation, Mrs Rumsey, who lives with her husband in Andover, Hampshire, smoked up to 30 cigarettes a day. Despite two more operations, she was still unable to kick the habit, cutting down to 15 or 20 a day.

Two years ago, with the aid of nicotine patches and a lot of support from her husband, Derek, she finally gave up but still craves cigarettes from time to time. "I wish I had never started but cigarettes are so addictive I found myself unable to give it up.

"After the operation I went from young to old overnight. I may be able to walk around but I don't have nearly as much energy as I used to," she added.

Mr Rumsey believes his wife, who has had to give up work, is entitled to compensation for the pain and trauma of the past ten years. "We couldn't go away on holidays for several years because of Violet's disease."

Gene clue sought to island's cancers

By Shirley English

CANCER patients on the island of Benbecula are being tested for a gene that may explain why the disease kills so many people in the area.

The investigation is being carried out by local doctors and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, with the ethical approval of Western Isles Health Board, who earlier this year dismissed fears of a Chernobyl-related cancer cluster on the island.

Blood samples and family medical histories are being taken from Benbecula's 23 cancer sufferers. The DNA will be tested for hereditary cancer-causing genes, known as HNPCC. If a family link is established, a screening programme will be introduced.

Finnish scientists identified HNPCC in 1993. They traced a sixth of Finland's cancers, mainly of the bowel and digestive system, to a village where the HNPCC gene is thought to have mutated in the 1600s.

Yesterday, Morag McIntosh, 60, a crofter's wife who was recently diagnosed as having bowel cancer, welcomed the project. Her mother died from breast cancer four years ago and four of her neighbours developed the disease. "This is a small island and if it continues like this there will be no one left."

Dr Iain Frayling, a scientist with the charity, will be studying the samples at its laboratories in London. He contacted Dr Francis Tierney, a local GP who suggested the Chernobyl link, and the health board after hearing about the cluster because he believed the profile of sufferers suggested HNPCC.

He had been investigating cancer families on another unnamed island outside Britain for three years. One of his patients could trace ancestors to the Outer Hebrides. "It is possible that there is a family gene doing the rounds on Benbecula. If a pattern is recognised then more people could be offered appropriate screening," he said.

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'Gullible attracted by company based on lie'

Computer's race tips cost punters thousands

By A Staff Reporter

A COMPANY selling horse racing computer programs which claimed to pick winners is being investigated by the Official Receiver after a High Court judge said it was "based on a lie". The £3,300 program not only failed to produce profits but made losses for the hundreds of purchasers.

Since beginning trading this year, Comstrad took £2.8 million in sales of Sequence XL, the horse-racing program, and was also marketing a £995 package called Quest 10 which it claimed could match up score draws on football pools.

But in a judgment yesterday, Mr Justice Carnwath said the company had made extravagant claims about the programs and their track record. He said promotional brochures described Sequence XL as a secure "investment program", which would have made £45,358 for a £500 investment during the past year.

"The brochure also contained a guarantee that if any losses were incurred in the first three months, the £500 starting investment would be reimbursed," the judge said. But there was no provision for this. "This company was based on a lie. There was a basic lie in their business throughout," he said.

The judge granted an application by the Department of Trade and Industry which means that Comstrad, which has offices in London, will no longer be able to sell its products. Its assets have been seized.

Tests carried out on the program by the DTI showed a "uniformly bleak picture", added the judge, with a sustained loss of the initial £500 investment. When buyers complained, they were told that the reason the program was not functioning successfully was because of adverse weather conditions which had made the going soft on racetracks.

The company will have to show at a full trial next month why it should not be wound up in the public interest. Mr Justice Carnwath said that the company argued that it was not right that a liquidator should be appointed to close down a profitable business. But he said there was no prospect that it would have a viable business if it did not "depend on a lie" and he was "wholly unpersuaded" by the plea.

The judge said that there was no doubt that the company was profitable — up to 40 more "gullible" people a week were buying the units in the hope of getting rich quick.

A spokesman for the DTI said after the hearing that compensation for people who bought the programs would depend on the outcome of the forthcoming trial.

Racing, pages 42, 43

PHOTOGRAPHS: SIMON WALKER

Three of the designs shown yesterday from Nicole Farhi's collection for London Fashion Week, combining soft tailoring with cool elegance

Farhi defines the Home Counties look

By Grace Bradberry
Style Editor

Anne Heseltine with Clinton Silver of the British Fashion Council; and right, Fahri

ANNE HESELTINE, wife of the Deputy Prime Minister, who was in the front row yesterday to see shows by Nicole Farhi and Jean Muir, is not alone in admiring the work of the French-born designer. Farhi's designs are renowned for their elegance and wearability and are coveted by many middle-class Englishwomen.

Yesterday's spring/summer collection for London Fashion Week did not disappoint, with trouser suits in cool linen and light pinstriped gaberdine demonstrating Farhi's skills for soft unstructured tailoring. Part of the collection had a Latin-American feeling with jabot frills in transluscent georgette. Farhi described the colours as 1940s lingerie hues. Translated, that means they bore a slight resemblance to old-fashioned nighties.

It is designers such as Farhi and Betty Jackson, who also showed yesterday, that are the backbone of British fashion. While younger, whackier designers attract huge attention, their older counterparts quietly accept large orders.

Nevertheless, Indian squaws and St-Tropez girls in strapless dresses made Bella Freud's show one of the liveliest of the week. Stella Tennant, the face of Chanel, made her first appearance on the London catwalk and was followed by fellow aristocrats Iris Palmer and Honor Fraser. They modelled outfits that included bikinis and dresses patched from suede with fringeing, outsize daisy-print jackets and a baby-blue cropped fur bolero jacket.

The British Fashion Council is quietly confident of bumper sales for most of the designers present. The number of international buyers on the first day was up 30 per cent and many have been booked advance appointments with specific fashion houses. John Wilson, chief executive of the council, said: "In people like Alexander McQueen and Hussein Chalayan [showing today] we've got some of the hottest designers in the world. But London is also buzzing for reasons other than fashion, and that is having an effect."

Today also sees the first London presentation by Tommy Hilfiger, the much-hyped American sportswear designer who is a favourite of President Clinton and the rap star Snoop Doggy Dog.

A hot ticket yesterday was for Alexander McQueen's show, held away from the main site at the Royal Horticultural Hall in Westminster. McQueen, 27, is tipped by many to win the British Designer of the Year Award, and also to take over from John Galliano at Givenchy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hostel girl scared by intruder

An 11-year-old girl from Cornwall was awoken by an intruder at a Brittany youth hostel a few days before the rape and murder of Caroline Dickinson in the same area, police said yesterday.

The primary school pupil from Padstow woke in the small hours to find a man near her bed. A teacher was alerted by the child's screams and the intruder was chased from the hostel. A Devon and Cornwall police spokesman said that French detectives were aware of the incident about 20 miles from Pleine Fougères, where Caroline was raped and suffocated in July.

Police write-off

Two police cars were written off when they met head-on while responding to reports of youths breaking into a car at Kingshurst, Birmingham. The four policeman were not badly hurt but one officer was treated for minor head injuries.

Cars struck man

Jon Cottam, 21, died in hospital after being struck by three cars while walking home from a pub at night on a foggy country road near Fugglestone, Wiltshire, in March, an inquest was told yesterday. Verdict: accident.

Peak interest

The first photograph of the summit of Everest taken from the air fetched £4,600 at Christie's. S. R. Bonnett captured the shot from an open-cockpit plane during a 1933 expedition led by Colonel Stewart Blacker.

Pooh-stick alert

Visitors wanting to float Poohsticks under Winnie-the-Pooh's bridge in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, are being asked to take their own twigs. So many sticks have been taken from surrounding trees that they are being depleted.

CORRECTION

A Greater Manchester police officer whose bicycle was stolen after youths threatened him with a screwdriver was a constable, not, as reported on September 26, Chief Superintendent John Potts. We apologise for the error.

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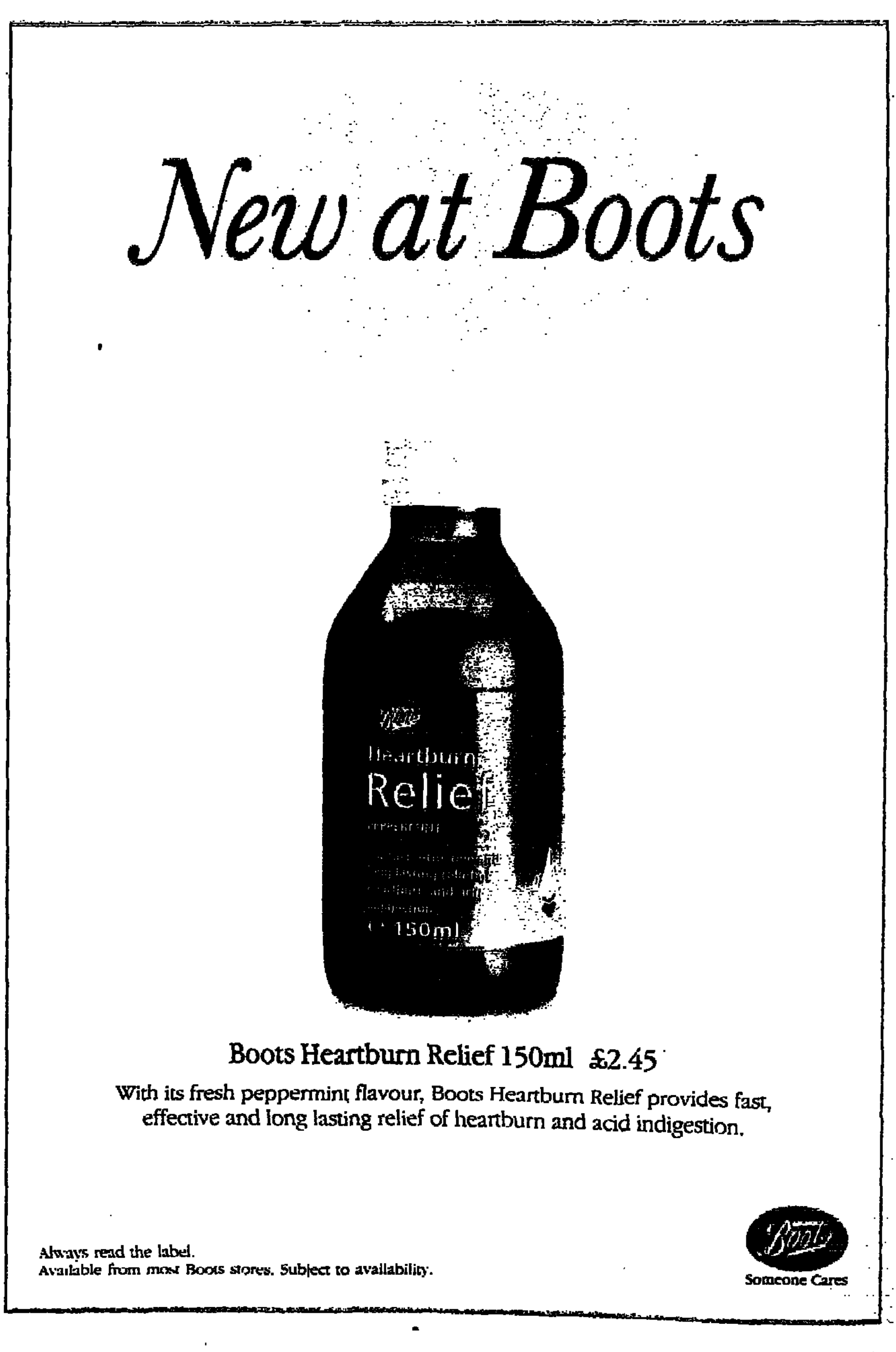
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Rare hawks to be tested after raids on breeders

By Tim Jones

POLICE from ten forces have seized rare birds of prey in raids on suspected illegal breeders in England and Wales. The birds include goshawks, peregrine falcons, merlins and a rare red kite. They are prized by collectors and can fetch up to £1,500.

Blood samples from more than 30 birds have been sent to Nottingham University, where they will be subjected to genetic fingerprinting techniques. These will determine the birds' parentage and establish whether they were captive bred lawfully or taken from the wild illegally. Three of the birds, including the red kite, were taken immediately to the National Birds of Prey Centre in Gloucestershire to see if they could be returned to the wild.

The raids, co-ordinated by South Wales police, were launched after officers had kept watch on the homes of three known breeders. At one address in West Glamorgan, where several hawks were found, a number of traps and other equipment were seized. Police also discovered more than 100 cannabis plants and arrested a man aged 39.

Trapping equipment was uncovered at another address in Mid Glamorgan, from where the red kite was taken. A man was arrested for possessing an unlicensed firearm. Further charges will depend on the result of the blood tests.

All the species involved are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Detective Sergeant Ian Guildford, South Wales police wildlife liaison officer, said: "Birds of prey are subject to considerable illegal persecution. This ranges from poisoning and shooting to the removal of eggs and chicks. It is important that we send out a strong message to those involved that we can and will take steps to tackle these unusual crimes."

Roger Lovegrove, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "We are delighted that the police are taking these types of offences seriously. The continuing persecution of birds of prey is of great concern."

Guy Shorrock of the RSPB said: "Illegal breeding is now becoming big business and threatens some of our most beautiful and majestic hunting birds." He said the thieves who took eggs or chicks from the wild were despised by legal breeders who used captive stock.

"Falconry is an ancient sport to which we have no objection. But the illegal trade must be stopped," Mr Shorrock said, adding: "There are at last signs the crime is being treated more seriously and some people have been sentenced to as much as 18 months' imprisonment."

The forces that took part in the operation were Wiltshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, Northumbria, Greater Manchester, Kent, Metropolitan and South Wales.

Peregrine falcon: prized by collectors

Fungal drug patented

A MOULD found growing on a Leeds building site could bring hope to thousands of people suffering from deadly fungal infections (Nick Nuttall writes).

Scientists, excited by the discovery, have patented a family of drugs derived from the mould after discovering that it has powerful anti-fungal properties. The find could eventually help people who contract candida, an infection of the genitals that can spread to the lungs, and aspergillosis, a lung disease caused by fungal infection.

Dr David Langley, a research associate at Glaxo-Wellcome in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, said: "Of all the people who die in the world from infection, most die of fungal infections rather than bacterial ones like cholera. There are plenty of anti-bacterial agents but very few anti-fungal ones."

The discovery will be disclosed today at Fungus 100, a meeting in London celebrating the British Mycological Society's centenary year.

PAT LANGAN

Grainne Kelly cleaning one of the stones. "The circles may have been for a ritual"

Artistic spirit rises from burial site

By Nicholas Watt, chief Ireland correspondent

ONE of Europe's finest examples of megalithic art dating back 5,000 years has been uncovered by archaeologists in the Irish Republic. Six large stones engraved with concentric circles and spirals were found lining a passageway to a burial chamber.

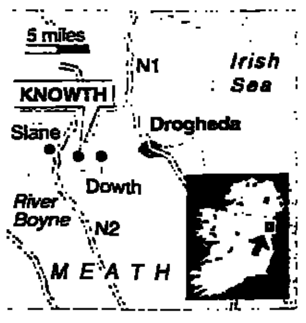
The decorations at Knowth in the Boyne Valley, Co Meath, show the sophistication of the Neolithic people who lived in Ireland 3000-2000 BC. They constructed burial chambers throughout the north and midlands of Ireland, including three within a four-mile radius in the Boyne Valley.

Grainne Kelly, land surveyor at Knowth archaeological site, said that she was delighted with the find. "The six stones represent the finest example of megalithic art across Europe. To find them in one area together is fantastic." The stones have been cleaned and put on display at Knowth.

Ms Kelly said that she was unsure of the significance of the concentric circles. "It may have been for a ritual but the engravings were certainly not art for art's sake."

Archaeologists have spent 34 years excavating Knowth. They uncovered the artwork last week as they excavated an entrance to a main burial mound. Ms Kelly said: "We knew the stones were there but did not realise they had such important artwork. They were crooked and so we lifted the stones up to straigthen them out. It was at this point that we uncovered the artwork."

The archaeological team is led by Professor George Eoghan, who began work at Knowth in 1962 with a few aerial photographs. The team has since uncovered two main burial chambers and 17 smaller chambers. Knowth is larger than the Boyne Valley's world-famous Neolithic burial site at Newgrange.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Part Two of the Downfall of Jeremy Thorpe— News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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File on Bishop Wright affair sent to the Pope

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

Wright: appointment vetted by the Vatican

A DOSSIER on the scandal involving Roderick Wright, the former Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, is being sent to the Pope before a replacement is found. The file is expected to concentrate on how Mr Wright was ordained a bishop in 1991, in spite of a rigorous vetting by Vatican authorities.

It is being drawn up as the Church prepares for further damaging disclosures in newspapers this weekend. More revelations about the former bishop's relationship with Kathleen MacPhee are expected in the *News of the World*, which has paid £15,000 to Mrs MacPhee's children but nothing to Mrs MacPhee or Mr Wright, who has a 15-year-old son, Kevin, with his former lover Joanna Whibley.

The Pope will also be briefed on how Mr Wright survived as bishop in spite of reports against him. Scotland's senior bishops, Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow and Archbishop Keith O'Brien of Edinburgh, were confronted with allegations that he had apparently been having affairs when his housekeeper, Ileene McKinney, alerted them to love letters from four women, some containing explicit sexual references.

The Church accepted the bishop's "cast-iron guarantees" that the rumours were untrue but did not check further with any of the four women concerned. Instead, Miss McKinney was herself sacked. Mr Wright was also investigated twice during the 1960s and 1970s, when two other women made claims about "improper conduct". The investigating bishops at the time, who are now dead, also absolved him.

In spite of repeated attempts by the Catholic Church to claim otherwise, the former bishop's behaviour has once again focused attention on the issue of celibacy. Seven-eleven, a support group for women in relationships with Catholic priests which claims up to 80 members in this country, is to meet a senior member of the English Catholic hierarchy next week.

In a statement issued yesterday the group claimed "that there are many more such relationships than the official Church acknowledges". A spokeswoman said: "Our experience is that many of these relationships are creative, loving and long-term friendships, of between eight and 26 years. They have sustained the man and helped them to become more mature and integrated beings, particularly in the area of sexuality."

In an open letter to newspaper editors this week, Cardinal Winning wrote: "Now is the time for everyone to reflect and to consider the needs of all those whose lives have been damaged and changed forever by the recent revelations."

He insisted: "Celibacy is not the issue, nor is it the crisis the media would have us believe. Furthermore, one man's highly publicised indiscretions, which have become a 'crisis' for the media, do not constitute a crisis for the Church."

Nevertheless, one priest said the Wright affair had affected the mood of the Church nationwide. "When I walk down the aisle during mass, I can feel them looking at me and wondering how many I've got," he said.

The Catholic Church in Scotland wants a bishop appointed for Argyll and the Isles before next summer, when it celebrates the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba. The apppointment of a successor to Mr Wright would normally take up to a year but the Vatican is likely to move swiftly to find a man who can calm the troubled diocese and take the helm in time for the celebrations.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15

IAN WALDIE/REUTERS

David Bellamy with clippings from a 1,000-year-old yew tree. Today at Bishopthorpe Palace, residence of the Archbishop of York, he will urge every community in the country to plant a yew to mark the millennium

Immortal yew's fresh shoots mark rebirth of faith in Creation

DAVID BELLAMY

Credo

I was brought up as a Baptist in a wonderful, but redbrick church. I envied the local parish pile which came complete with lich-gate and ancient yew. The two churches were then the centre of a thriving suburban community that had obliterated part of the Surrey countryside less than a generation before.

My father was a Baptist lay preacher, and I was first taken to a church service at the age of three. I went to church three times every Sunday and saw people going up to give witness on their road to Damascus, but it never happened to me. The hard times of the Second World War welded the community together into a survival package without equal. Together we prayed, recycled and dug for victory morally, ethically and spiritually.

However with the end of the war, we were able to move out of the urban jungle and visit what was then still the vibrant dioversity of the Surrey countryside. That was my awakening, the intricate beauty of God's Creation in the hands of a caring rural community.

Suddenly it all began to make some sense. The Church of England with its roots in pre-industrial communities, parishes that celebrated the annual round of rural life, spring, midsummer, Rogation Tide, harvest festival — times of rebirth and rejuvenation that meant a great deal to me.

Thus I came to be confirmed and on the rare occasions that I am home join in the worship at our local parish church where people have gathered to share their sorrows, celebrate their joys and give thanks to God for over 600 years.

On my travels I can now worship with and so learn from the teaching of the world's religions, all of which hold the sanctity of life in all its forms as a central part of their belief.

At the end of the last war, the war on Earth began. Products of the creative power of God were put in danger as never before.

We have over the past 50 years been witnessing the devaluation of humankind's main asset, the sustainable community in all its forms, family, village and parish. Today, at Bishopthorpe Palace near York, on behalf of the Conservation Foundation, I will be urging every parish, village or town in the country to plant a very special yew tree to celebrate the millennium.

And why? To show that we care about God's Creation. The foundation's yew tree survey has discovered more than 20 yews over 2,000 years old standing next to parish churches.

These will provide some of the young yew trees that we hope will find their way to the parishes, enabling every local community not only to celebrate the millennium but to plant something that could well be flourishing at the next.

Yews are in essence immortal; regeneration from epicormic buds or from their rootstocks, keeps them growing. The tree that stands watch at the lich-gate is the tree that is now helping in the fight against cancer; it contains a "greenprint" for *Taxol*, a family of drugs now giving hope to many people, young and old.

What better way to mark the renaissance of our faith in God's part in Creation than by planting a yew and appointing a member of the parish to act as a focal point to convey the good tidings of sustainability and the power of creative evolution.

☐ *Dr David Bellamy, a botanist, ecologist, author and broadcaster, is the president of the Conservation Foundation which he co-founded in 1982.*

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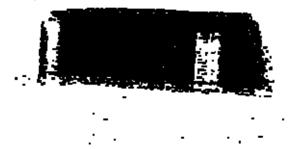

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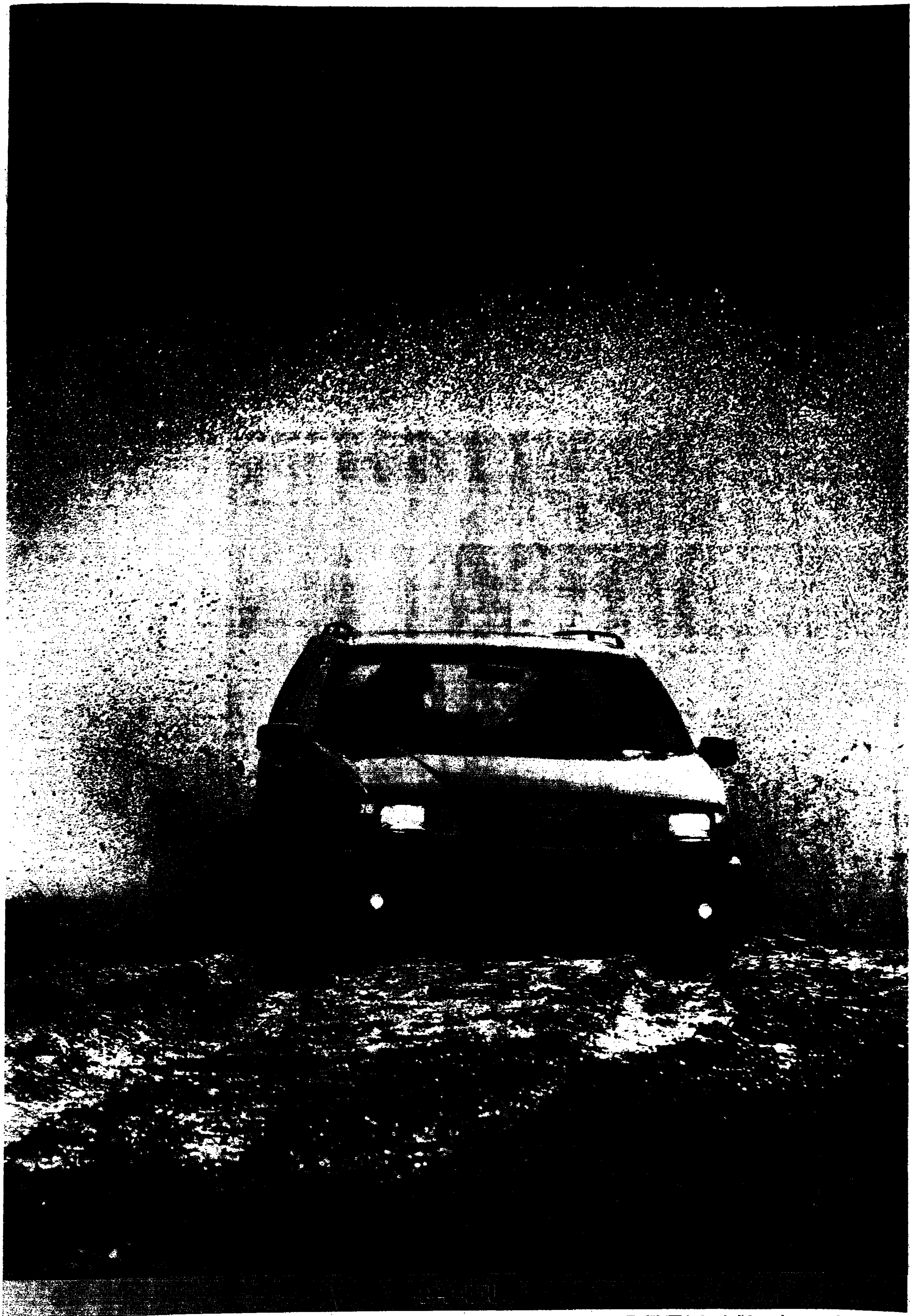

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Wall Street 'wonder boy' accused of $200m share fraud

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A WALL STREET financier who began investing at the age of 11 and was last year hailed as the most promising businessmen of his generation, faces sentences totalling 165 years in jail after an astonishing alleged bluff.

Prosecutors said that Christopher Bagdasarian, 31, who was reported to have been worth $40 million by the time he was 19, bluffed his way through Wall Street and persuaded some of the toughest, most sceptical bankers in America to invest in his company. Mr Bagdasarian, who is on trial in a federal court in Manhattan, has pleaded not guilty.

Among his alleged victims were Salomon Bros and Chemical Bank. They and other banks supported a $200 million public share offering for Normandy America, Mr Bagdasarian's reinsurance company, after they were given assurances of his business record and personal value. The alleged confidence trick, prosecutors said, was revealed only after clerks at Chemical Bank discovered that some of Mr Bagdasarian's financial statements were not legitimate. Lance White, his business partner, who was also an accountant with Deloitte & Touche, immediately left their employ. Mr White had allegedly signed a document saying that Mr Bagdasarian had a record of providing investors with average returns of 29 per cent and that he was worth $500 million.

Mr Bagdasarian persuaded some respected names to join his enterprise, including Peter Ueberroth, the organiser of the Los Angeles Olympics, who unwittingly became a director of Normandy America. The company was part-managed by a former golf caddie, and Mr Bagdasarian also employed his wife.

Salomon Bros telephoned a former "client" of Mr Bagdasarian to check on his investment performance, but prosecutors allege that the man was in fact a friend of Mr Bagdasarian. At the same time, his sudden appearance as a Wall Street player did not go unnoticed.

Mr Bagdasarian was described last year as "the next Warren Buffett" by the influential *Forbes* business magazine. Mr Buffett is the market-moving head of the $38 billion Berkshire Hathaway fund. Mr Bagdasarian opened an office in the building next to Mr Buffett and appeared to model himself on the veteran deal-maker. He borrowed some $24 million from Chemical Bank to buy a personal jet and a $6 million estate.

Paul Gerlach, of the US Securities Exchange Commission, said: "We investigate a lot of fraud and I haven't seen fraud as audacious as this. I guess the notion is that if you tell a big enough lie, nobody's going to challenge it." The case continues.

Poll win for army chief in Gambia

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YAHYA JAMMEH, Gambia's military leader, coasted to an emphatic victory yesterday in presidential elections to return the country to democracy after two years of army rule, official results showed.

Ousainon Darboe, his main rival, was reported to have taken refuge in the Senegalese Embassy in Banjul, the capital. With 81 per cent of the votes counted, Colonel Jammeh, who toppled the civilian President, Sir Dawda Jawara, in 1994, received 199,650 votes (55 per cent). Mr Darboe had 131,035 (36 per cent).

The result will be discussed today in New York by Commonwealth foreign ministers who are also to consider sweeping new sanctions against Nigeria, currently suspended from membership. The London-based Human Rights Watch/Africa yesterday urged them to impose sanctions on the Abacha regime which, it says, violates its citizens' rights with impunity.

Leading article, page 21

KEVIN MINGORA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nose for trouble: a stray shepherd-husky dog found near Marshalls Creek, Pennsylvania, with porcupine quills embedded in his head. A vet removed the quills and the dog, expected to make a good recovery, will be up for adoption soon

Japanese election called on US deal

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

RYUTARO HASHIMOTO, the Japanese Prime Minister, dissolved the lower house of parliament yesterday for a general election to be held on October 20. Clearly confident of gaining a second term, he said he was going to the country to seek voters' support for his handling of the issue of American bases on the southern island of Okinawa.

Opposition by Okinawa residents to the presence of the American military has created Mr Hashimoto's biggest headache in his nine months in office. Earlier this month, the Government promised to ease the military burden on Okinawa in a makeshift deal with the island's Governor that has made the electoral climate more favourable to Mr Hashimoto.

The Prime Minister could have waited until next July to go to the polls but an early date well ahead of next April's increase in the national sales tax was favoured by his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the biggest in the three-party ruling coalition.

Voters face the unenviable task of choosing between parties with virtually uniform policies, all hogging the middle ground, and notable only for the almost total absence of inspiring political figures. Recent opinion polls indicate that about 50 per cent of voters feel no allegiance to any party.

At the last election, in 1993, the conservative LDP's 38-year stranglehold on power was broken, and Japan entered a period of coalition administrations in which differences among parties have become blurred.

The main opposition group, the New Frontier Party, formed by an assortment of small parties two years ago, is expected to do well. It is unclear whether the Liberal Democrats will win an outright majority in balloting which is being held under a new electoral system, but they are expected to gain enough of the 500 seats in the next lower house to continue to dominate a coalition administration.

Hashimoto: put bases issue to the voters

Rwanda genocide hearing delayed

FROM SAM KILEY IN ARUSHA

THE trial of Jean Paul Akayesu, the first Rwandan to appear before an international tribunal accused of genocide, was postponed yesterday after both prosecution and defence admitted they were not ready.

Two days of pre-trial motions in which Johan Scheers, a Belgian defence lawyer, argued that he had not had the time or the resources to find witnesses were rejected by a panel of three judges at the request of Jacob Hailie Mariam, the prosecutor.

Then Mr Mariam, an Ethiopian, asked for the proceedings to be adjourned for him to trace witnesses and bring them from Rwanda to the court in Arusha, Tanzania.

The trial, which was to have begun two days ago, was adjourned until October 31. Mr Akayesu is charged with organising the murder of 2,000 Tutsis in his district. He was a local leader of the Hutu militia which led the slaughter of about a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in 1994.

☐ **Laredo, Texas:** FBI agents have arrested Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, 73, a Rwandan pastor who is wanted for alleged genocide. *(AP)*

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Swift revenge as Taleban seizes control of Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE AND ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

TALEBAN fighters in Afghanistan were last night searching for President Rabbani, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Prime Minister, and Ahmad Shah Masood, the ousted Government's military chief.

The Islamic militants made it clear that all three would be killed if they were captured. Muhammad Najibullah, the former leader, was killed with a bullet to the head by the militants before he and his brother, who was still alive, were hanged from a lamp-post outside the Presidential Palace. The swinging bodies drew large crowds.

"We killed him because he was the murderer of our people," Noor Hakmal, a Taleban commander, said.

General Masood was a hero of the guerrilla war against the army of the former Soviet Union. His forces captured Kabul in 1992 and fought Mr Hekmatyar's private army before making a deal three months ago. Mr Hekmatyar killed thousands of civilians with random artillery bombardments.

Tanks, artillery and lorries loaded with Taleban fighters headed north yesterday towards Jabal us-Sharaj, General Masood's headquarters, apparently in an attempt to confront and destroy his Tajik militia. Taleban is mostly Pashtun, the traditional rulers of Kabul. The two ethnic groups share a historical hatred.

The Afghan Islamic Press news agency in Pakistan declared that Afghanistan was now a "completely Islamic state" where a "complete Islamic system will be enforced". Taleban took over the Presidential Palace and the key ministries of defence, security and foreign affairs. Hours earlier government soldiers poured out of the city on the only road still in their control.

Kabul airport and Bagram air base, 30 miles north of the capital, are under Taleban control. The vital supply road from Kabul to the Khyber Pass is open again.

Taleban said a six-man ruling council would run the country. A commander named Musa said the militia was using loudspeakers to tell civilians to go about their lives as usual. He hoped the new regime would be able to get more food to the capital, but he feared that hundreds of thousands of civilians would be vulnerable this winter.

He added that the International Committee of the Red Cross was asking Taleban to protect civilians and not to carry out killings

Despite the pledge to kill the three fugitive leaders, he added:"Taleban will not take revenge. We have no personal rancour. If the people find someone responsible for crimes in the past we will judge him according to Islamic law." There would be an amnesty for government soldiers and officers who surrendered.

The Red Cross, which has been helping about a quarter of a million people in Kabul, said it had been given approval for further humanitarian relief operations, including a 35-lorry convoy.

☐ **Delhi:** An Afghani envoy in India said President Rabbani and other members of his Government were about 15 miles north of Kabul. He said the Government still controlled 13 of Afghanistan's 31 provinces. India has stepped up security at the homes of former Afghan leaders in Delhi, police said. The widow of Najibullah was driven from her home in a bulletproof car. *(Reuter)*

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Taleban fighters, who overran shattered Kabul yesterday, have urged civilians to go about their business as usual

Obituaries, page 23

Militants herald brutal justice

BY MICHAEL DYNES

AN ERA of brutality is about to fall on the hapless inhabitants of Kabul. In their attempt to create the world's purest Islamic state in Afghanistan, the victorious Taleban militia will waste little time before subjecting the population to justice by amputation and coercing women into purdah.

Music, dancing, picnics, and even kite-flying will be banned as un-Islamic. The few television sets and stereo systems left in the capital will be ritually smashed up in public squares. Women and girls will be forced to conform to strict Islamic codes of dress, and will be prohibited from going to work or school.

The Taleban militia is a ruthless enforcer of Sharia (Islamic law). Thundering around in their Toyota pick-up trucks, the Islamic fighters, with their flowing beards and cloth caps, dish out Koranic justice. Meat cleavers are used to chop off the hands and feet of thieves, and women who fail to conform to dress codes are beaten with rifle butts.

Grisly end for 'The Ox' with a taste for terror

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE former dictator and wrestler, Muhammad Najibullah, nicknamed "The Ox", inspired fear in his subordinates and terrified his opponents with his appetite for torture and death.

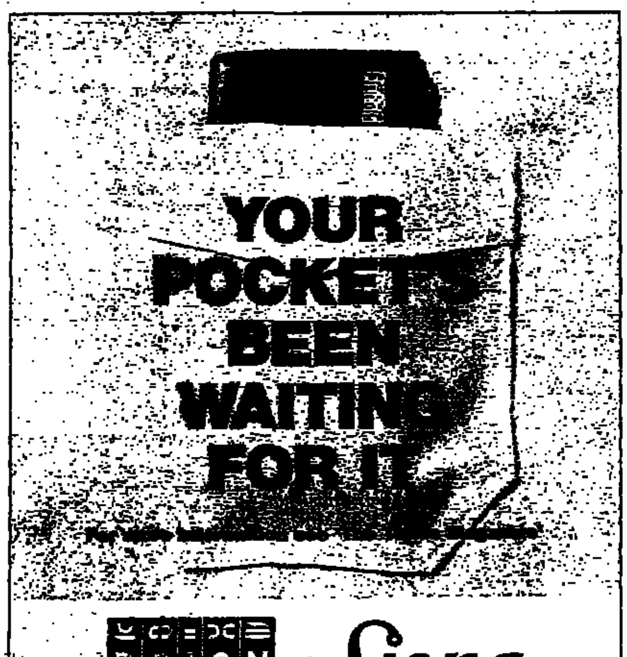
When I met him, he was stuck in the gloomy Presidential Palace in Kabul, waiting for the last Soviet troops to leave Afghanistan at the end of their disastrous ten-year occupation. There was no sign of his reputed lavish lifestyle, complete with 20 mistresses and a fleet of limousines.

It was in early February, 1989. There was snow on the ground and panic in the air. Just about everyone was predicting — wrongly as it turned out — an imminent bloodbath in which Najibullah and his communist supporters would be thrown to the wolves by the advancing Mujahidin. Nobody could have foreseen that he would have to wait a further seven years to meet his grisly end.

Having backed land reforms which so enraged rural Afghan society, and then been head of the hated KHAD — the KGB-trained secret police which tortured, killed and imprisoned thousands of Mujahidin — he was now posing as a figure of reconciliation.

Given their abject hatred of him, it is amazing that the Mujahidin leaders allowed him to live so long after his régime fell in 1992.

He was left in a UN compound just round the corner from the palace while the victorious rebels fought over and destroyed Kabul's elegant boulevards.



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Noon sun casts shadow of war over Jerusalem shrine

The deaths yesterday fuelled claims that Jews are violating Islamic holy sites, pushing the region towards a new jihad, writes **Christopher Walker** in Jerusalem

NOON prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, degenerated yesterday into a bloodbath that left three Palestinians dead and more than 60 wounded.

The killings fuelled accusations of Jewish violations of Islamic holy places that are pushing the region towards a new war.

Given the current tensions between Arab and Jew, the bloodletting was as predictable as the fierce heat of the noonday sun. But the desecration of such a holy place by the ferocious hatred felt by both sides, and the cruel reality of warfare that also left seven Israeli paramilitary police wounded, still came as a shock.

The first hint of trouble came at 12.15pm, as stones were hurled down from the Temple Mount, the compound that houses al-Aqsa and the landmark Dome of the Rock from where Muhammad is reputed to have begun his journey to heaven. The stones landed on the heads of black-coated Jews praying at the Wailing Wall — the holiest site in the Jewish religion — some 50ft below. As birds took off in fright from the cypress trees that shade the approach to the mosque — where in 1951 King Husain's grandfather, King Abdullah, was assassinated for attempting to make peace with his Jewish neighbours — gunfire echoed around the Mount. Police later insisted that only rubber bullets were fired.

Along with a small group of foreign journalists who were prevented from entering the Mount because we were not Muslims, I was violently elbowed aside amid barked Hebrew. Squads of Jewish reinforcements in flak jackets and helmets charged up on to the Islamic holy turf through the narrow Moors' gate to join the pitched-battle against the stone-throwers. Some of the young Palestinian fighters, a minority of the 10,000 worshippers present, were shamelessly seeking cover inside al-Aqsa — where President Sadat prayed when he visited Jerusalem in 1977 — and the magnificent Dome of the Rock.

"There was massive stone-throwing at our forces. There was no choice but to finish dealing with the demonstrators. Some of the rocks being hurled were very big," said Assaf Hefetz, Israel's tough-looking police commissioner, who had earlier ordered the evacuation of Jews praying at the Wall.

Emotions were running high under the tree providing shade for wounded Israeli policemen at a hastily-constructed field hospital. One seriously injured man was being given a drip by a young woman soldier who was fighting to keep back her tears. The sound of firing above us was accompanied by the distant chanting of the Islamic war cry, Allahu Akhbar (God is Greater), from several hundred Palestinians who had stayed to fight — knowing that the eyes of the Islamic world were upon them.

Mr Hefetz, his blue flak jacket signalling concern that Palestinian snipers might be operating, insisted that only teargas canisters and rubber bullets had been used. But Arab doctors at the two east Jerusalem hospitals where the dead and wounded were ferried in a fleet of ambulances claimed that wounds inflicted by live ammunition had been treated.

At the Arab-run Mukassed Hospital, hundreds of angry Palestinians shouted for revenge.

Palestinian leaders were swift to seize on the action taken by the huge Israeli security force as evidence of new breaches of Islamic holy areas in defiance of international understandings. Four thousand Israelis were in place in and around Temple Mount, and more than 40 police wagons were crammed nose to tail in the Wailing Wall plaza alone.

"This is a dynamic of war," said Leila Shahid, a senior PLO representative in Europe whose broadcasts have been whipping-up Islamic passions around the world.

"The Muslim holy places are out of bounds to the Israeli forces, but they took the decision to storm them," she said.

Ironically, the fighting took place close to the entrance to the Israeli-dug tunnel near al-Aqsa which sparked the crisis that has already left more than 60 dead and nearly 1,500 wounded.

The spot is so highly charged with religious history and symbolism that many fear it could one day spark a new jihad — holy war — by Muslims against the Jews, who have occupied Temple Mount since their victory in the 1967 war.

Arab-Jewish hatreds did not seem in any way diminished by the fact that the tunnel was padlocked shut.

"It is just closed on Friday and Saturday because of the Jewish holiday," Avigdor Kahalani, the Israeli Internal Security minister, told me after visiting the scene.

He made it clear that neither he, nor any members of the cabinet, had any intention of closing the tunnel, as is being demanded by the Arabs. "It will be open again on Sunday and it will stay open forever," the skull-capped former tank commander said.

David Pryce-Jones, page 20

MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP

A Palestinian worshipper carries an injured man from al-Aqsa Mosque yesterday

Warning: rocky road to Ramallah ahead

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN NABLUS, WEST BANK

THE lovely terraced hills of the West Bank have eyes. You do not see them at first but they are there waiting patiently until your car comes into full view. Then the eyes sometimes become upright Palestinians, who attempt to bury your vehicle in a hail of stones, on suspicion that you are a Jewish settler passing through the area.

Even though my car has foreign licence plates to indicate neutrality, I was attacked twice yesterday while traversing the winding roads between the battle-torn cities of Ramallah and Nablus. There is no way of detecting when an attack might occur except by watching the road ahead to see if it has already been covered in stones. If they can be spotted, the next step is to put one's foot down hard on the accelerator, in the hope that speed will outwit the stone-throwers.

One should add that journalists and other foreign visitors are given warnings beforehand not to embark on the journey. At every Israeli military checkpoint on the way, soldiers attempt to discourage travellers from going any further.

Even Jewish settlers, the real target of the attacks, sometimes pull over to warn oncoming drivers that a barrage of stones is imminent, just around the corner. One such man, wearing a religious skullcap, blocked the road at one point yesterday with his passenger van. "Stop," he said. "Stay here." Pulling an automatic rifle, he surveyed the area until he was satisfied it was safe to go on.

It seemed that the real battle in the West Bank was over who controls the roads. The only way into Nablus yesterday was a rocky trail off the main road, after Israeli soldiers said no one was allowed to pass through the normal route.

The appearance of Israeli tanks added to the feeling that the Palestinian territories had been transformed overnight from self-rule enclaves into a war zone. One Palestinian shopkeeper in Nablus said yesterday he had no doubt who had started the war. "The Israelis are to blame, you must write that. We are tired of suffering."

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

Hinchliffe faces £35m writ over Facia collapse

By Paul Durman

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield businessman, is being sued for £35 million, plus interest, over the collapse of Facia, the retail group he ran. Mr Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, Facia's former finance director, are accused of breaching their fiduciary duties by ordering or permitting Facia Footwear, which they controlled, to make unjustifiable payments. These, it is alleged, brought no benefit to Facia Footwear.

One alleged beneficiary was Sheffield United Football Club, which is said to have received £150,000 from Facia Footwear, owner of the shoe shops that Facia took over from Sears. Mr Hinchliffe was a director of United until a few months ago.

The claims are being brought by administrators at Price Waterhouse, the firm of accountants handling the affairs of Facia Footwear and two other Hinchliffe/Harrison companies, Wisebird and Cityscan. They are based on the movement of money around the Facia group and other Hinchliffe companies during the final nine months before they failed in June.

The biggest single claim against Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison is for £20.7 million, which Facia Footwear allegedly paid to other companies in the Facia group — including the owners of Salisburys, the luggage chain, Oakland Menswear, Red or Dead and Sock Shop.

Damages are also sought from the two men for apparently allowing an £11.9 million debt that was owed to Wisebird to be paid to the Facia Group. The writ says the debt was owed by British Shoe Corporation, part of Sears. A third claim seeks £1.1 million for rent and licence fees that should have been paid to Cityscan but were allegedly paid to the Facia group. The administrators are also seeking a £587,000 payment they claim was made by Facia Footwear to Matchmaker Holdings, another of Mr Hinchliffe's companies.

The Department of Trade and Industry is seeking to have Mr Hinchliffe disqualified as a director, and the Serious Fraud Office is investigating the Facia collapse.

BBC strikes $500m deal for pay-TV

By Eric Reguly

THE BBC has entered into exclusive negotiations with Discovery Communications of America and Flextech, its sister company in Britain, to launch its first pay-TV channels.

The deal, announced last night, is part of the BBC's effort to boost its dwindling financial strength by generating a stream of commercial income.

The talks with Discovery and Flextech come as a blow to BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. BSkyB had been negotiating with the BBC to develop the themed channels in Britain. Flextech, however, is expected to strike a deal with BSkyB to broadcast the channels on its satellites.

It appears that BBC Worldwide, the BBC's commercial arm, chose to enter exclusive negotiations with Discovery and Flextech because they could guarantee broader exposure on cable and satellite systems in America.

Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, is half-owned by Tele-Communications Inc (TCI), America's largest cable company and one of the largest programmers. TCI, through its Liberty Media subsidiary, owns 49 per cent of Discovery. Discovery's other shareholders are Cox Communications, which holds stakes in UK Gold and UK Living; two pay-TV channels in Flextech's portfolio, Advance/Newhouse Communications; and John Hendricks, Discovery's founder and chief executive.

Nu details were disclosed but it appears that the channels will be devoted to what the BBC does best — documentaries, drama, comedy, lifestyle, art and music. Three channels will be launched by Flextech in Britain while Discovery aims to start at least six in America. Roger Luard, Flextech's chief executive, said that the final agreement with the BBC will by signed by the end of the year, with the first channels ready for broadcast by next summer.

Bob Phillis, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, said: "I now look forward to moving to a successful conclusion in these negotiations. Flextech and Discovery have successful track records in the development of subscription channels."

Discovery expects to invest about $500 million to develop, market and transmit the channels in the US and other international markets. Flextech's investment in Britain would be considerably less. Some of the channels will not carry the BBC logo though all will contain varying amounts of BBC programming.

BBC Worldwide will not invest any of its own funds or any of the BBC's licence fee income into the new pay-TV channels. It will sell programming to the channels and take equity stakes in them. Negotiations are under way to determine profit-sharing agreements with Flextech and Discovery.

The BBC is placing increasing reliance on BBC Worldwide to supplement its licence fee income, which reached £1.82 billion in the latest financial year. The BBC is finding that licence fees alone are not enough to buy and create all the programming it needs in a highly competitive market. It lost the rights to the Grand Prix and the FA Cup last year because of lack of funds.

Richard Emery, managing director of BBC Worldwide Television, said: "These agreements promise to strengthen significantly the BBC's commercial prospects in the multichannel era . . . We believe this will greatly increase our ability not only to continue to augment the licence fee, but also to maximise in future the commercial value of BBC programmes."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3946.4	(+13.2)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE A All share	1943.93	(+4 73)
Nikkei	21547.02	(+85.65)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5853.32	(-15.53)*
S&P Composite	684.32	(-1.54)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{1}{4}$%*	($5\frac{5}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$98\frac{9}{32}$*	($98\frac{11}{32}$)
Yield	6.89%*	(6.88%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$5\frac{7}{8}$%	($5\frac{3}{4}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$108\frac{9}{16}$	($108\frac{15}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5630*	(1.5614)
London:		
$	1.5634	(1.5624)
DM	2.3834	(2.3774)
FFr	8.0554	(8.0406)
SFr	1.9638	(1.9551)
Yen	173.28	(172.45)
£ Index	86.9	(86.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5245*	(1.5236)
FFr	5.1555*	(5.1530)
SFr	1.2570*	(1.2544)
Yen	110.83*	(110.67)
$ Index	97.4	(97.3)

Tokyo close Yen 110.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	$22.30	($22.45)

GOLD

London close	$381.15	($360.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Ken Bates, left, and Matthew Harding in the Chelsea stand

Chelsea to field four new stars

By Jon Ashworth

BEER-SWILLING Scandinavian football fans will be out in force when one of London's newest hotels opens its doors next year. But the owners hope that bolted-down furniture, plastic cups, and a nice line in baton charges can be avoided at the four-star venue in the shadow of Chelsea Football Club.

The Chelsea Village Hotel, due to open in November 1997, might run the risk of turning into a playground — or worse — for over-enthusiastic fans. Not so, insists Chelsea Village, the leisure company which owns Chelsea FC.

Offices, apartments and a 234-space underground car park are part of the game plan for Chelsea, which yesterday unveiled a pre-tax loss of £2.9 million in the year to June 30.

Increased development expenditure and doubled transfer fees at Stamford Bridge were behind the slump in profits, which comes in Chelsea's first year on the Alternative Investment Market. Floated in March at 55p, the shares closed 2p lower yesterday at 82½p.

Turnover increased to £15.9 million (£13.2 million), but higher operating expenses of £15.3 million (£10.2 million) and transfer fees of £2.6 million (£1 million) resulted in a pre-tax loss of £2.9 million, compared with a pre-tax profit of £1.5 million last time.

Matthew Harding, who recently donated £1 million to the Labour Party, has a 24.9 per cent stake in Chelsea. Ken Bates, the chairman, said the company was intent in reducing its reliance on gate receipts.

Projects due to come on stream next year include the hotel, four restaurants, a business centre and offices, and a banqueting suite.

SFO sets Young date

By Robert Miller

THE Serious Fraud Office will open a formal investigation early next week into the way in which Peter Young, the Morgan Grenfell manager, ran two European funds before he was dismissed for gross misconduct.

The SFO had been expected to take the Morgan Grenfell case on this week, but had to postpone for operational reasons. Imro, the City watchdog for fund managers, raided Morgan Grenfell's London office on August 21 and since then has been in close contact with the SFO. The fraud office is expected to ask for assistance from City of London police.

The SFO investigation will centre on the web of Luxembourg companies, including Russ Oil & Technology, established by Wyler & Woolf, a Swiss law firm, allegedly on Mr Young's instructions. The fraud office is involved primarily not because the case involves allegations of complex fraud but a number of overseas jurisdictions.

On the civil side, Imro is expected to begin disciplinary proceedings against Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank, and certain senior executives responsible for supervising Mr Young's trading and investments. Several of the Luxembourg holdings were listed in the fund portfolios.

Imro said yesterday: "The SFO has been informed of developments since the beginning of our investigation."

DLR link goes ahead

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

THE Government's struggling Private Finance Initiative was given a rare boost yesterday when Michael Heseltine launched a £200 million extension to the Dockland Light Railway (DLR).

The 2.6-mile line, which will cost £60 million more than originally estimated, is due to be completed by 2000 and will link South East London and Greenwich, the site of the Millenium Exhibition, with the DLR network.

The line is being built and financed by the City Greenwich Lewisham Rail Link consortium (CGL Rail), which has been given a 25-year concession.

The shareholders are John Mowlem, the construction firm; Hyder, the Welsh utility group; London Electricity; and Mitsui, the Japanese bank. It is being funded by a bond issue underwritten by BZW.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who has taken a lead in the Government's attempts to regenerate east London, hailed the project as "a magnificent addition to London's transport infrastructure". Journey times will be 17 minutes from Lewisham to Canary Wharf, and 30 minutes for Lewisham to the City. It will bring an additional 500,000 residents within 45 minutes travelling of Docklands.

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Chesterton hit by accounting errors

By Paul Durman

THE chief executive of Chesterton International, the property consultants, has left the company after a collapse in pre-tax profits partly caused by serious accounting errors.

The £900,000 accounting write-off contributed to a collapse in full-year pre-tax profits, from £5.3 million to £2.4 million. Chesterton's shares, strong performers earlier this year, yesterday fell by a third, to 69p.

Giles Ballantine, chief executive since 1990, agreed to leave on Thursday. The company said that he recognised that his credibility had been badly damaged by the poor results. Mr Ballantine, who earned £116,000 last year, has yet to agree compensation.

The accounting errors came to light during the year-end audit by Price Waterhouse, the accountants. Chesterton has, over recent years, reported £600,000 of excess profits because it double-counted commission earnings on rental income. Another £300,000 charge was needed to reconcile the books of Chesterton's Spanish business, which Price Waterhouse had not audited before.

Other one-off costs included a £500,000 bill for settling professional indemnity claims, and a similar sum for rationalisation and redundancies. Chesterton also spent £850,000 developing Private Finance Initiative projects that have only recently begun to bear fruit.

The biggest loser from yesterday's share price fall was British Gas, which acquired a 13 per cent stake last February when it sold Chesterton a business that manages about 2,500 British Gas properties. British Gas, whose financial controller, Mark Clare, sits on Chesterton's board, is locked into its shares until December 1998.

Chesterton said that the underlying results last year were satisfactory, and current trading was "most encouraging".

Earnings per share fell by 76 per cent, to 1.7p, but the total dividend is maintained at 3p via a 2p final due on December 2.

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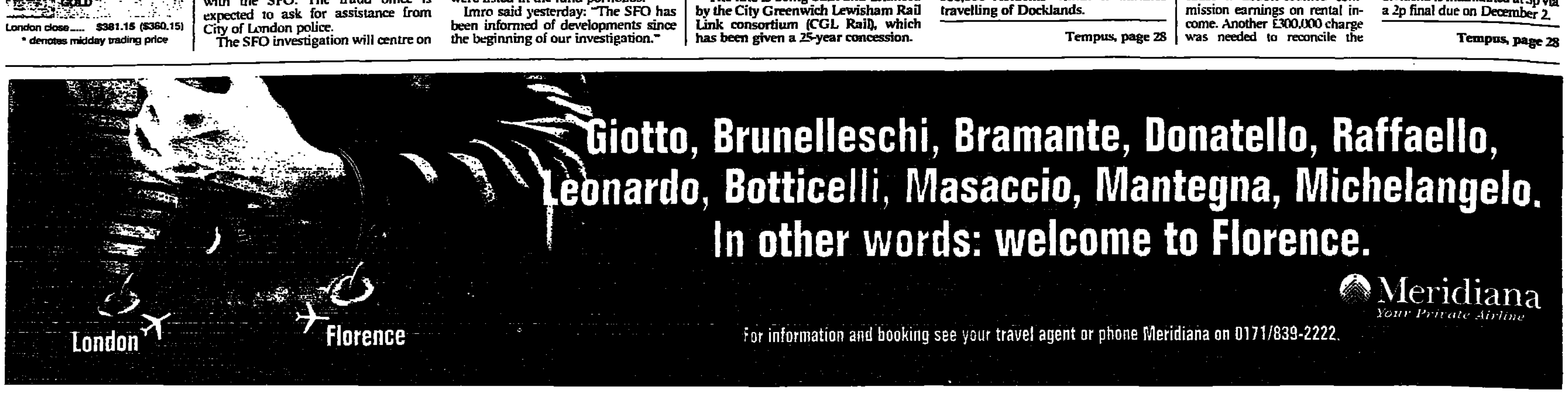

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Openness the true meaning of business stakeholding

EXECUTIVE VOICE

Anita Roddick

While Tony Blair paints his picture of a stakeholder economy and society, businesses debate what the stakeholding concept means for them. Mostly they just see costs.

Business reactionaries are running scared of the idea that companies have responsibilities to interest groups beyond their shareholders. They wheel out the old mantra "the business of business is business" and that companies meet their social obligations by creating wealth and paying taxes.

But my experience is this: socially responsible businesses are often faced with more tyrannies and paradoxes than other companies — the tyranny of inadequate measurements, the paradox of altruism. The biggest tyranny of all is the tyranny of the "or".

We're told you can either be profitable *or* you can clean up the environment; you can either be against exploitation *or* you can exploit the popular myths created by the cosmetics industry; you can either test on animals *or* cut off your basis for future product development. The Body Shop is living proof that you can make a profit *and* you can make a positive contribution to the community. You can trade on a global scale *and* stick your neck out with campaigners for human rights. You can open up shops on more high streets *and* speak out about the social problems in that community.

If business leaders could look beyond the short-term asset-stripping corporate irresponsibility of the 1980s and the euphemistic "right-sizing" and "out-sourcing" of the 1990s, they would see that shareholders' long-term interests are served by companies that cultivate the support and respect of all those who can affect their performance.

What today's corporate reactionaries forget is that, long before stakeholding became a political buzzword, it was sound business practice. Victorian philanthropists like Cadbury endowed educational institutions, libraries and hospitals in their local communities, and worked hard to improve the conditions and education of their employees. They understood that a cohesive society is an essential foundation for business success, and that their companies would thrive with healthier, better-educated and more productive people.

Show me the business that doesn't depend on loyal customers, motivated employees and committed suppliers and I'll use shareholder value as the exclusive measure of business success. Until then, we'll conduct our business as if people *do* matter.

Last year's RSA *Tomorrow's Company* inquiry made the case for a stakeholder approach. It said: "Those companies which will sustain competitive success in the future are those which focus less exclusively on shareholders and financial measures of performance — and instead include all their stakeholder relationships . . . in the way they think and talk about their purpose and performance."

For me, human relations are the most important things in business. Our business *is* our employees, our customers, our franchisees, our suppliers, our shareholders, the campaigning groups we work with and the communities we trade in and serve. Our business embraces stakeholders such as staff and customers and promotes participation on a practical level. We build trade links that help develop communities in need. We encourage our staff to volunteer with local community groups. We reduce our costs through sound environmental management. This approach is not only socially responsible, but commercially successful.

When I recently visited Unipart I was bowled over by the way they use staff participation to improve morale and efficiency. Ben & Jerry's engages in regular dialogue with its stakeholders to review and plan its social performance. And the Co-operative Bank has distinguished itself by taking a stand on ethical issues.

What these businesses recognise is that customer and wider community interest in the ethical, social and environmental performance of business has never been higher. There is a rumbling curiosity in consumers to know the stories behind the brands. Today, people not only want to empathise with the products, they want to emphathise with the company.

That gives me some faith in the future. Vigilante consumers will increasingly question companies and may boycott products if they don't like what they see in terms of environmental protection, social responsibility and community involvement.

If you doubt that, just ask Shell about public and customer reaction to both the Brent Spar affair and the execution of the Ongoni environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa. At the same time, shareholder activists will disrupt agms to make their point on social and environmental issues, and corporate behaviour is under the media spotlight as never before.

British Gas paid the price when shareholders, regulators and employees united against boardroom excess and Marks & Spencer found that relationships with suppliers in the developing world can turn to intense media scrutiny.

Any company that wants to take its stakeholder responsibilities seriously should start by being honest and open. In our experience, employees, business partners and suppliers are better motivated and more efficient when social and environmental — as well as financial — information is freely shared.

In 1991 I wrote: "I would love it if every shareholder of every company wrote a letter every time they received a company's annual report and accounts. It would say something like: "Okay, that's fine. But where are the details of your environmental audit? Where is your accounting to the community? Where is your social audit?"

This year we published independently verified audits of our track record on the environmental, animal-protection and human relationships within our business. When many people are talking about the stakeholder economy, this is one way of identifying how we impact on our stakeholders, and using that information to improve the business and our relationships.

The bottom line is that you can't build a business based on asset-stripping and short-termism. Nor can a successful business operate in a society riddled with fear and insecurity. Corporate reputations and commercial prospects can be irretrievably damaged by poorly handled relationships and mediocre ethical performance.

While corporate Britain debates the stakeholding issue it should remember this: progressive companies that are honest and responsive will build the loyalty they need to deliver success in the long-term.

☐ *The author is founder and chief executive of The Body Shop International.*

Banks' home loans still buoyant

By Robert Miller

MORTGAGE lending by UK banks remained buoyant in August, traditionally a quiet month for the housing market, with gross loans some 6 per cent higher than in the previous month, at £2.8 billion.

Year-on-year comparisons, however, are distorted by the fact that the former National & Provincial Building Society (N&P) became absorbed into the banking sector when it was formally taken over last month by Abbey National. In a similar vein, Cheltenham & Gloucester was included in the banking sector from August 1995, when it became the retail mortgage arm of what is now the Lloyds TSB group.

The British Bankers' Association said yesterday that net lending on a seasonally adjusted basis, including N&P's contribution, rose by £632 million, compared with an increase of £612 million in July. BBA figures also underline the fragile nature of the housing market recovery to date, with the average value of approvals declining for the first time since February, by just over 2 per cent to £2.2 billion. The number of new approvals fell marginally to 38,156, from 38,253 in July.

Tim Sweeney, the director-general of the BBA, said: "Taking account of the numbers published by the building societies, seasonally adjusted mortgage lending overall in August was probably close to the buoyant May figure, though approvals data appear to be weaker than last month."

Precise comparisons with underlying movements in previous months were difficult because of N&P joining banking, he said.

☐ The pound yesterday hit its highest level against the mark this year, partly because the German currency was weak, but also because of good demand for British government bonds. Sterling was quoted at DM2.3840 in afternoon trading, surpassing the previous 1996 high of DM2.3822, set in July. The pound also traded at three-year highs against the yen, at above Y173.

Earlier, the Bank of England announced that two separate tranches of gilts had been sold out. Traders reported good demand from Japanese investors, drawn by the relatively high yield on British gilts.

Coalite company losses top £38m

By Oliver August

LOSSES at Anglo United, the Coalite fuels company, increased sharply to £38.3 million, from £12.4 million, in the year to March 31.

The increase in losses was the result of a 17 per cent decline in demand for domestic solid fuel after the privatisation of British Coal, which had caused an industry-wide loss of liquidity and substantial destocking. Losses were 4.3p a share, against a 1.5p loss last time. The shares fell to ½p, from 1p, yesterday.

The company said that negotiations are taking place for the disposal of the group's smokeless fuels and chemicals activities.

"Whilst the restructuring may result in a further significant dilution of the interests of those shareholders who are not members of the group's banking syndicate, it is intended that this process will preserve some shareholder value, albeit that value could be less than the current market capitalisation of the group," it said.

Alan Brooks, chairman, said: "This result was achieved in a very disturbed trading environment, which continued to be affected by the privatisation of the coal industry."

Trading conditions in the domestic solid fuel market appear to have stabilised for the moment and sales of coalite during the summer have been maintained at levels similar to those of the previous year.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Over the next few months Valerie Douggleby will receive more phone calls than anyone in the country. As the woman running the helpline at Halifax Building Society whilst it converts into a public company, she will be in the front line of one of the biggest logistical exercises ever undertaken . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.71	16.21
Belgium Fr	51.89	47.59
Canada $	2.242	2.082
Cyprus Cyp£	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	9.70	8.90
Finland Mkk	7.70	7.05
France Fr	8.44	7.79
Germany Dm	2.53	2.32
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong $	12.71	11.71
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.37	4.72
Italy Lira	2481	2326
Japan Yen	186.90	170.90
Malta	0.605	0.550
Netherlds Gld	2.818	2.588
New Zealand $	2.38	2.18
Norway Kr	10.65	9.85
Portugal Esc	253.00	234.50
S Africa Rd	7.67	6.87
Spain Pta	206.50	193.50
Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Switzerland Fr	2.09	1.91
Turkey Lira	144400	136400
USA $	1.660	1.530

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Anagen UK put into liquidation

Anagen UK, the diagnostics company, has been put into liquidation after failing to find a marketing partner for its AuraFlex system. Philip Sykes and Martin Fishman, of Arthur Andersen, said they would look for a buyer.

Shares of Anagen, which achieved a 1996 high of 75p, were suspended on September 17 at 30½p.

Airtech's AIM

Airtech, which makes components to enhance the coverage of base stations in the cellular mobile telecommunications network, is to seek a share listing on the Alternative Investment Market. Shares to be placed with institutional investors at 68p each will value the company at £30.97 million, raising £10.35 million to fund expansion. Share dealings begin on October 3.

Marley buys

Marley, the building products company, is buying Greenwood Air Management, which makes ventilation units and extractor fans, from Hunter Group for £17.5 million. In the year to June 30 Greenwood, which operates from sites in the South East, had sales of £11.9 million and earned operating profits of £2.4 million.

Shorts order

Short Brothers, the Belfast aerospace company, has won a £10 million contract to supply airframe components for Westland's Apache attack helicopter. The work, for 67 Apaches ordered by the Ministry of Defence, will support up to 90 jobs.

OUR MERSEYSIDE WORKFORCE IS ENERGETIC, WITH POSITIVE IDEAS FLYING AROUND THE PLANT. THEY ARE EXCELLENT TEAM PLAYERS

There's more to building a workforce than simply pulling together a lot of people and telling them to get on with it.

Johnson Controls are a 'just-in-time' company in the automotive industry, next door to Ford at Halewood. When they moved to Merseyside in '94, they devised their own job application form that looked for team players. People who played for a local football team. People who organised outings for the disabled.

From 600 interviews, 104 were chosen. Only 3 dropped out.

And after special training by one of Merseyside's three Training & Enterprise Councils, the 104 graduates went to work.

"Forget Liverpool or Everton. This is the best team on Merseyside."

When the production line started rolling, Johnson saw one or two things you rarely see coming off a conveyor belt.

Team spirit. Initiative. People who cared about their company.

Their working methods have proved so successful that Johnsons have used some of their Merseyside workforce as consultants in developing their production line in Dagenham.

"I would like to take my workforce with me - wherever I go."

But the enthusiasm, teamwork and 'can-do' attitude you find on Merseyside aren't restricted to Johnson Controls.

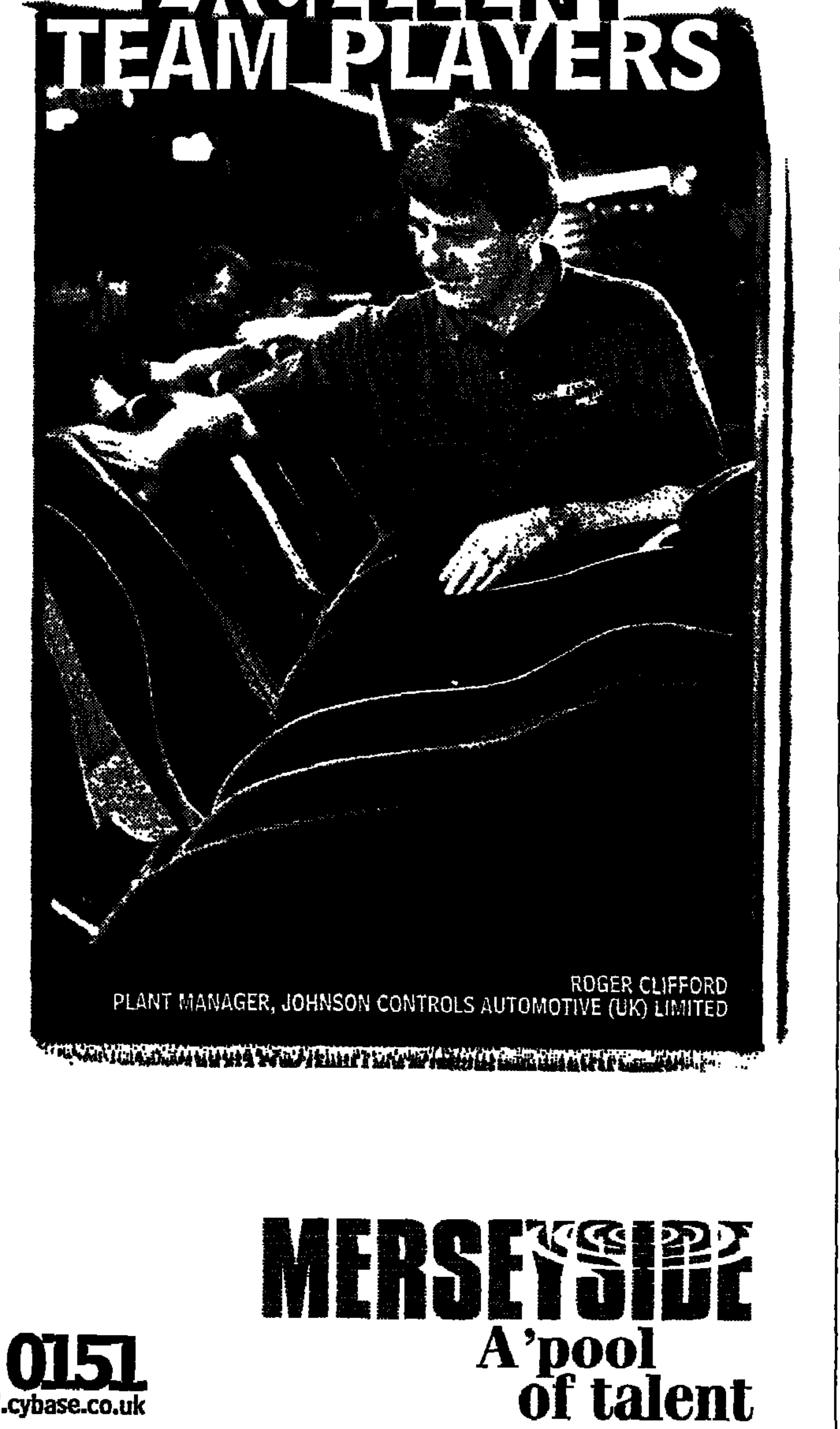
Ask the management teams at other car component companies, like Delco Electronics, Champion Spark Plugs and Mackie Automotives.

Outside the car business, ask oil and gas exploration company BHP, Glaxo, BICC or Kodak. (You really can ask them. As a new investor on Merseyside, you're invited to join a regular forum who pool their knowledge of the region and share those experiences with you).

And ask them about Merseyside's financial incentives, training assistance and site availability. Or the R&D opportunities with the two world class Universities.

But what about the team at Johnson?

They met their first production target way ahead of schedule. No surprises there. After all, Merseysiders have always been focused on getting their goals.



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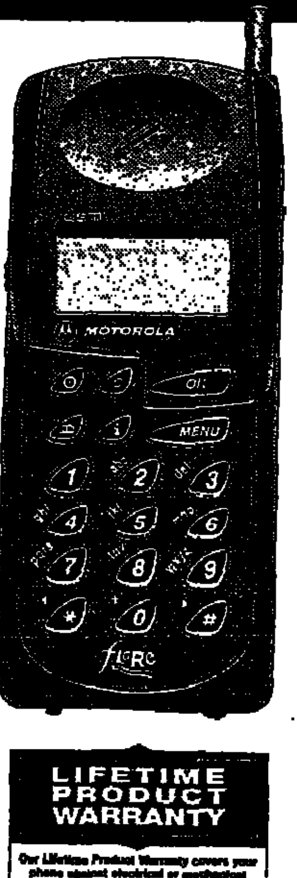

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN RANDALL

Numbers man plots a new era for MFI

Morag Preston meets a chief executive tempered by the hell of a management buyout and some horrific trading years

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

JOHN RANDALL is now in the driving seat of MFI Furniture as chief executive of the flat-pack giant. He sat alongside the flamboyant Derek Hunt, who was MFI's chief executive and chairman when Randall was finance director, the post he held at the time of the management buyout. It was Randall, however, at the helm this month when the company's share price shot through the £2 level.

Randall, 50, says of the MFI management buyout: "It was a bigger change than I had anticipated, and it took me a little while to get fully to grips with what I was doing." His unassuming style has led some to think that he is little more than Hunt's sidekick. "I haven't developed the whole process, but I'm driving it, and that's the difference," says Randall, adding that the way to survive is not to follow the example set, but to be yourself.

Randall has been 18 years at MFI, which he joined as financial controller in 1978. Seven years later he was promoted to finance director. Crunch time came in 1987, as part of Hunt's MBO team, which went through a "very tough time" buying the furniture company from Asda, the supermarket chain, after an ill-fated merger two years earlier. Seven directors, including Randall, bought out MFI for £717 million, a figure that set a record at the time.

> ❛ I've got a lot to do . . . this business has a lot further it can go ❜

"Many's the time I've watched the dawn rise, and I'm not talking of the summer," says Randall, describing the hell that was the MBO. "It's not something I'd recommend to anybody, but you had to ensure the survival of the business."

Since then, MFI has been through a second, £760 million, flotation on the London Stock Exchange, after which Mr Randall was appointed group managing director in 1994.

As the UK's largest integrated manufacturer and retailer of furniture, MFI reported a 17 per cent increase in sales for the first 21 weeks of this financial year. Two stores have opened in Spain, and six in France, where sales have grown by 35 per cent. Midway through the programme, 61 out of 184 stores have been converted to MFI Homeworks in the UK, at a cost of more than £500,000 each, selling a broader range of products, including furnishings, textiles and tableware. "Our textile range is one of the best-kept secrets in Britain," Randall says.

His home, at St Albans, Hertfordshire, where he lives with his wife, Linda, and 15-year-old daughter, boasts a range of MFI bedrooms and an MFI kitchen, as will his next house, when he moves to Wheathampstead, near Harpenden, in 1997. Last Thursday, Randall sold 50,000 shares for £97,000 in preparation for the move. But while he may spend his weekends wandering through his nearby MFI, decorating is not Randall's forté. "For many people, the co-ordination of colour is quite a problem," he says. "If I were unfortunate to have to buy things like that for myself, rather than have a wife who can do it for me, that would be a big issue in my mind."

Having left school at 16 to sell timber for Hollis Brothers in Yorkshire, a company that was later taken over by Robert Maxwell, Randall describes it as "the hardest job of any". Bored and ambitious, he returned to education eight years later, when his wife was expecting their third child, to embark on a two-year HND in business studies at Hull College. Getting the graphs the right way round was a terrible problem, and his ability with figures led him towards accountancy. "I had no more wish to be an accountant than fly to the moon," says the man who spent two years as a graduate trainee accountant with Spillers, the flour and bread business, hitching lifts home to Hornsey at weekends.

In search of something "a bit freer and a bit more exciting", Randall answered two newspaper advertisements for a job at Don Miller's Hot Bread Kitchen and another at MFI, which reported a £30 million annual turnover at that time. The former did not call him for an interview, but he hit it off immediately with Edward Lea, then finance director of MFI and now with Bupa, and was brought in as financial controller. Hunt was retail director at that time. "I remember him having some fairly unkind words to say about being a Yorkshireman," Randall recalls. "It was only later that I found out he was one as well."

MFI has huge factories in the north of England, and operations spreading into Europe, so Randall spends much of his week working in the back of his chauffeur-driven Mercedes. He travels to France once a month, on average. When not travelling, he will be at MFI's 50,000 sq ft headquarters in Colindale, north London, by 8.30, and will not set off for home until ten hours later.

Last Tuesday was the AGM in London. Randall then shuttled between central London and Colindale for three meetings on Wednesday. On Thursday, it was Hygena, at Howden near Hull, and on Friday it was back to base at Colindale.

Canapés and corporate entertainment only occasionally squeeze their way on to Randall's timetable. "You could fill your diary with that kind of thing if you wished, but we're a business and our customer is the man in the street," he says. "If I went to a cocktail party in the evening it wouldn't add one pound onto our sales during that week, and, at the end of the day, that's what matters." Instead, after work, Randall prefers to take himself off to the garage adjoining his house — "Where they can't get at me" — to sweat for at least half-an-hour on the treadmill.

Having forsaken squash during the MBO years, Randall and his wife have joined a golf club, but he is still not sure whether he likes the game. Much of his weekend is spent shepherding the youngest of his four children to various sporting activities; last weekend it was a girls' county hockey match. Walking and sailing are his hobbies, and Linda's enthusiasm for classical music is starting to rub off on him. A tell-tale Union Jack is still lodged in the back of the Mercedes as a memento from the *Last Night of the Proms.*

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

John Randall visiting MFI's Watford store: "The fundamental formula of retailing should be that it is capable of adapting to the changing environment."

Randall's 28-year-old son works in food retailing, and his younger son works for a French bank. His elder daughter, aged 24, is an engineer with Carnaud-Metalbox. Asked whether they have ever worked at MFI, he laughs: "Not work for the old man. They all want to make their own way in the world, and they're doing just that."

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Randall's own childhood was spent roaming the countryside and camping down by the river while his father worked as an engineer at the local mental hospital. "No one had a car in them days, so I got a bus ten miles to school every day," Randall recalls. "I went to Hull once a year if I was lucky."

Looking to his future with the furniture group, Randall says that it will take at least three years before the conversion of MFI Homeworks is complete. "You can only work within the time framework you find yourself in," he says. "The last couple of years have been extremely difficult, the markets have been very depressed. And during that time we had to commit to spending a great deal of money, driving the business forward, investing in the future."

With a mission to attract those shoppers who might once have considered MFI somewhat downmarket, Randall insists: "It doesn't fit the image of cheap and cheerful any longer, it is exceptional value for money. We have got the advantage of volume, which is the amount we push through our stores, and we've got the advantage of price, and that's because of our highly efficient manufacturing operation. If you put those two together, it's a virtuous circle." He adds: "We're constantly introducing new ranges in the stores and that's the key, not standing still."

Marks & Spencer and McDonald's are among the companies that Randall cites as role models. "The fundamental formula of retailing should be that it is capable of adapting to the changing environment, and that's not beyond the wit of man," he says. "Any sensible retailer should be able to achieve that."

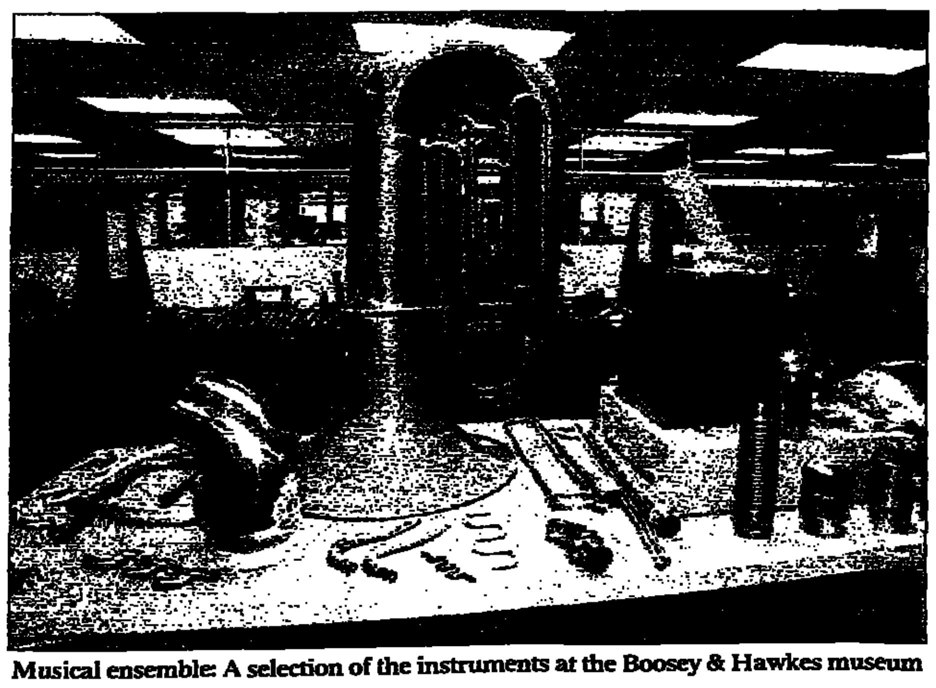
On the subject of politics, Randall asks for stability above all, saying: "I just hope that if there were a change of government, we could maintain those two fundamental planks, sustainable economic growth and low interest rates. That's very important."

Recalling the furniture group's success in the late Eighties, Randall adds: "The price we paid afterwards was horrific. It's very difficult to run a business that's running at 100mph for two years and then running at 80mph for five or six years."

With what he considers the worst over, Randall is looking forward to taking the furniture group into the future, in the knowledge that his paid employment will end with MFI. "I'm only recently in the job," he says. "I've got plenty of enthusiasm, and a lot to do because this business has got a lot further it can go."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Music-maker blows its own trumpet at the museum



Musical ensemble: A selection of the instruments at the Boosey & Hawkes museum

Joanna Pitman says that Boosey & Hawkes have hit the right note with their collection of antiques

What do the following have in common: taragato, ophicleide and flageolet? No, they are not the ingredients of a Greco-Californian salad from the kitchens of Marco Pierre White. They are musical instruments found in a curious collection of musical antiques owned by Boosey & Hawkes, the instrument maker and music publisher.

Edgware in north London is Boosey & Hawkes territory, and hidden away next to one of its 1920s factory buildings is a small museum of glass cases containing some of the most obscure instruments ever to be found nestling in red velveteen. Take, for example, the 1840 flute made in Paris by a certain M Noblet. Constructed of stained wood simulating bamboo and horn, it has just one wooden key flush with the body. Nothing particularly unusual about that — until you discover its other role in life, as a walking stick. Another oddity is the Bb flute, which can be turned into a C flute by plugging certain holes with boxwood pegs. Next to this is a flute d'amour, an unusual example of the alto flute that enjoyed a brief European vogue in the late 18th century.

From here on the collection becomes steadily more abstruse, starting with the taragato, a Hungarian invention, a kind of oboe made of ebonite, with twelve keys, manufactured by Schunda of Budapest. It was brought to England specifically for a performance of Tristan and Isolde but is now close to extinction.

The museum has an octavin, another kind of oboe close in range to the cor anglais. And for brass instrumentalists, there is a range of sarrousaphones in Bb and Eb, and a baritone sarrousaphone, all early forms of the trombone. There is a Swannee saxaphone, a saxhorn, several serpents and four ophicleides, large tuba-like brass instruments. And for fans of obscure Polynesian musical instruments there is a fine collection of decorated nose flutes. All were made either by Boosey & Hawkes or affiliated companies. The company's history dates back more than 200 years to the 1760s, when John Boosey founded a music lending library in London. In the 1850s, the company diversified into making brass and wind instruments and started a series of concerts — the Boosey Ballad Concerts. Hawkes & Son was founded in 1865 by William Henry Hawkes, concentrating on band and orchestral music publishing, but also producing a range of instruments and reeds.

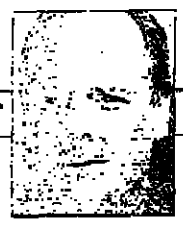
Both acquisitive firms, Boosey & Co and Hawkes & Sons were rivals that bought up smaller music publishing firms and agencies up until their own merger in 1930. The new firm's publishing division grew rapidly, spurred by Ralph Hawkes's decision to buy Universal Edition and Editions Russes de Musique. The firm became the publisher of Bartok, Kodaly and Delius and signed the unknown Benjamin Britten in 1935 as well as Stravinsky, Copland and Marinu. By the late 1940s, the firm had signed up Richard Strauss and had secured many of the most important copyrights of this century.

The instrument-making division has grown into one of the world's leading manufacturers of brass, woodwind and stringed instruments. It has bought brand names, including Besson, the French brass instrument maker, Buffet Crampon, which specialises in clarinets, oboes, bassoons and saxophones, and Hofner, manufacturers of stringed and fretted instruments and most famous for the "Beetle Bass" played by Paul McCartney. Boosey & Hawkes now has factories and distribution offices in France, Germany, the Benelux countries, Australia, Japan and North America. And for those still wondering about the flageolet, it is a variation on the flute, typically made of boxwood and ivory — and definitely not recommended for the cassoulet pot.

Even a car gets a service after 6,000 miles.

The New Arrivals Lounge at Heathrow. UNITED AIRLINES

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Early Wall Street drop trims London's gains

SHARE prices and government bonds ended the week on a firm note as institutional investors began squaring up their positions ahead of the third quarter's end.

The equity market was unable to maintain the early pace as Wall Street opened with early losses last night, but the FT-SE 100 index finished in positive territory with a rise of 13.2 points at 3,946.4. That was a loss on the week of 17.7. Turnover at 625 million dipped below the levels seen earlier this week.

Shares of **Glaxo Wellcome** raced up 18p to a new high of 994p after its Zantac 75 treatment received a recommendation for regulatory approval in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg. The 75mg tablet for the relief of acid indigestion and heartburn is already marketed in this country and Holland. Elsewhere in the sector, **SmithKline Beecham** climbed 16½p to 771p, with **Zeneca**, a favourite for takeover, 33p better at £15.80.

Oil shares were squeezed higher as market-makers continued to suffer from stock shortages. **BP** rose 6½p to 654½p, **Burmah Castrol** 4½p to £11.38½ and even **Shell** rallied 6p to 978½p. But the best performance was saved for **Enterprise Oil**, up 15p at 553p, after the group upgraded its estimate of reserves for the Valhall Field in Norway. The group is due to meet brokers next week.

Hanson, which hit a new low earlier this week, rallied a further 1p to 155½p. There are just a couple of days to go before demerging Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco. Before the demerger was announced earlier this year, the Hanson share price topped the 200p mark, but has since lost ground. Institutional investors are growing increasingly apprehensive about the benefits of the proposed split.

CH Bailey, the business and financial managers, firmed ¼p to 7¾p after returning to the black in the first half with pre-tax profits of £681,671 compared with the previous deficit of £1.04 million. Once again shareholders will not receive a dividend.

The City seems unimpressed with half-year figures from **Huntleigh Technology**. Pre-tax profits grew from £7.2 million to £7.9 million, but the group hinted that it was feeling the affects of healthcare budgeting pressure here and in the US. Brokers responded by downgrading their estimates for the full year, leaving the shares nursing a fall of 122½p at 640p. The group will move to a full listing in November.

As expected, shares of **Electrophoretics international** were marked sharply higher in early trading, with the price touching 90p before closing 12½p dearer at 77½p. It emerged late on Thursday that the group had been granted a licence to develop a process that can identify "mad cow" disease in humans. The National Institute of Health in the US has issued a licence to develop the process.

Cavaghan & Gray also rose 6p to 84p after shrugging off any worries it may have had about BSE. Michael Abrahams, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the first quarter had been badly affected by the scare over "mad cow" disease. But steps had been taken to replace sales of beef-based products with fish, lamb, pork and vegetable products. Costs had also been reduced.

As if it was not bad enough being turned over by Liverpool last Saturday, **Chelsea Village**, which owns the Premiership side, scored an own goal with full-year figures yesterday showing the group plunging into the red. The shares slipped 2p to 82½p.

Courtyard Leisure jumped 6p to 19¾p on learning that Robert Earl, the man behind the Planet Hollywood restaurants, has bought 900,000 shares, or 3.25 per cent, of the company, at 11.5p a share. At the halfway stage Richard Capper, Courtyard's new chairman, revealed pre-tax losses of £326,460 against £175,744 for the corresponding period. But he says the future is now looking a lot brighter.

There was heavy turnover in **Verity**, the electronics specialist whose chief executive is Farad Azima. The company ended the session 7¼p dearer at 23¼p. Turnover reached almost 27 million shares, valuing the entire company at £53.3 million.

The group's NXT subsidiary has developed a completely flat speaker which will be developed for use in cars, PA systems and domestic stereo systems. The group has decided to raise extra capital for the project by selling equity in NXT to outside investors.

Superframe fell 1p to 23½p after slipping deeper into the red at the halfway stage with trading conditions becoming increasingly difficult. The deficit was £167,051 compared with a loss for the corresponding period of £41,877. There had been a pick-up in orders during the second half.

Worse than expected figures saw **Anglo United's** stock market price tag halve, along with the share price from 1p to ½p. Last year saw losses at the group increase from £12.4 million to £38.3 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices made early headway as the London bond market attempted to catch up with some of its European counterparts. The market was unable to sustain the early pace, with prices closing below their best as profit-taking developed ahead of the weekend.

Even so, the Bank of England was able to take advantage of the market's strength to issue further tranches of stock. This included £200 million of Treasury 7½ per cent 2006, £200 million of Treasury Index-linked 2½ per cent 2003 and £250 million of Treasury Index-linked 2½ per cent 2016.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched £109 1/16 before closing three ticks better at £108 9/16 as turnover reached a total of 121,000 contracts.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 added £⅛ at £100 1/32, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks firmer at £103⅝.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street were mixed amid caution over earnings and more than a dozen public offerings. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 15.53 points lower at 5,853.32.

Farad Azima, of Verity, which rose 7¼p on high turnover

Signs of a recovery in some of its main markets lifted British Steel 4p to 196½p, just 4p short of its high for the year, as more than ten million shares changed hands. Usinor, its big French rival, said at a presentation to brokers in London yesterday that there were clear signs of a pick-up in demand in Europe.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Electrophoretics	77½p	+12½p	Licence to develop BSE diagnosis
Kwik Save	309p	-60p	Brokers "sell" recommendation
Railtrack	302½p	+14½p	Bullish AGM
P&O	618½p	+18½p	Buy recommendations
Courtaulds	477½p	+12p	Chart breakout
More O'Ferrall	649p	-93½p	Institutional sellers
Trinity Holdings	279½p	-48p	Maylasian bus problems persist
Dixons	524½p	-36p	Institutional selling
Huntleigh Technology	640p	-242½	Figures/profit downgrades

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 5853.32 (-15.53)
S&P Composite .... 684.32 (-1.54)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 21547.02 (+85.65)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11759.39 (+123.26)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 571.92 (+0.55)

Sydney:
AO .... 2283.0 (+9.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2659.04 (-7.51)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2171.05 (-1.43)

Brussels:
General .... 9787.44 (+3.18)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2107.05 (+2.91)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 775.40 (+0.70)

London:
FT 30 .... 2822.4 (+4.6)
FT 100 .... 3946.4 (+13.2)
FT-SE Mid 250 .... 4406.2 (+1.3)
FT-SE-A 350 .... 1968.4 (+5.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 .... 1723.44 (+4.67)
FT A All-Share .... 1943.93 (+4.73)
FT Non Financials .... 2046.53 (+5.23)
FT Fixed Interest .... 113.88 (+0.38)
FT Govt Secs .... 93.88 (+0.14)
Bargains 35131
SEAQ Volume 626.0m
USM (Datastrm) .... 199.70 (-2.36)
US$ .... 1.5633 (+0.0010)
German Mark .... 2.3833 (+0.0066)
Exchange Index .... 86.9 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.2409
£:SDR 1.0817
RPI .... 153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AEA Technology	323	- ½
Amer Opps U Ln	95	...
Barbican Health	62½	...
Brunner Mond	169½	- 1
Cruden Bay	89½	+ 3
Dairy Crest Gp	188½	...
Dentmaster Hldgs	4	...
Elec Retail Sys	217½	- 3
Fayrewood	45½	...
GT Chile Gth Fund	2575	- 03¼
Grosvenor Land	15¾	...
Hambros Smlr Asn C	65	...
Hartstone 8% Cum	123½	- 2
Life Numbers	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	5	...
Pemberstone Wrts	6	...
Polydoc	70½	...
Schrod Emg Cou Wts	39	...
Schrod Emg Countrs	93½	...
Shalibane	137½	...
Weeks Group	7½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BICC n/p (270)	21½	...
Davis Fin Uts n/p	39	- 4½
FII Group n/p (105)	3½	...
Grampian n/p (125)	5½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Telspec	185p (+20p)
Real Time	210p (+20p)
McBride	151p (+12p)
Dyson (J&J)	222½p (+15p)
Trinity Hldgs	279½p (+12p)
Greencore	359p (+15p)
Matthew Clark	318½p (+12p)
Enterprise	553p (+15p)
SmithKline	771p (+16½p)
Biocomps Intl	520p (+10p)
Glaxo Wellcome	994p (+18p)

FALLS:

Jardine Math	396½p (-18p)
Hozelock	467½p (-21p)
Dorling Kind	485p (-19p)
Mersey Docks	390p (-14p)
Gerrard Nat	314p (-11p)
Chemring	345p (-11p)
Psion	440p (-11p)
Avon Rubber	707½p (-15p)
Henlys	541½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

A double-edged day

CHESTERTON International has pulled off a coup by wiping out a third of the share price on the same day as it reported excellent trading. The property consultant has disappointed investors before. Floated in 1994, Chesterton's shares fell steadily until August last year. But the company seemed to have turned the corner and the shares doubled in the space of nine months, driven on by a deal to take over the management of 2,500 British Gas properties and by a recovering market.

But Chesterton seemingly managed to overstate profits by £600,000 because it recorded the commission earned on rental income both centrally and at local level. One does not need to be an accountant to see the problem, but Price Waterhouse failed to pick it up in previous audits.

It is also odd that Chesterton has only now disclosed that it has spent £850,000 on gearing up to take part in the Private Finance Initiative without getting anything back so far. PFI's slow progress is scarcely news.

With a new finance director, one suspects that there is an element of kitchen-sinking but Chesterton deserves credit for not trying to hide the scale of blunders.

But Chesterton's underlying business looks strong. It is starting to see the benefits from the British Gas acquisition and from the PFI investment. Recently reunited with Chestertons Residential, the group is benefiting from the strong London market.

If one accepts that most of the problems are historic, there seems little reason why this year Chesterton should not make close to the £8.5 million brokers previously forecast. But it may take time to win back confidence.

Hepworth

JOHN CARTER, chief executive of building products group Hepworth, goes to bed at night dreaming of pipes and boilers and has visions of planting Hepworth flags stretching from Sheffield, the company's home town, around the globe.

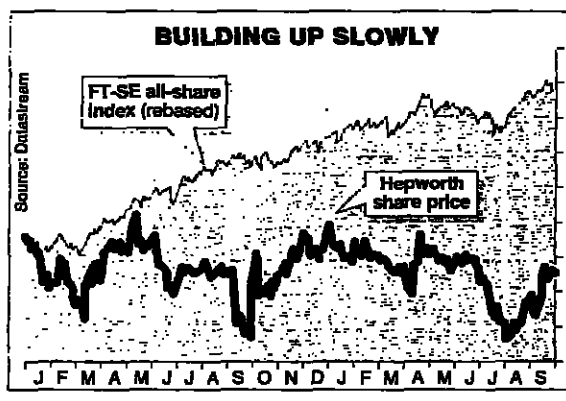
The group is already a fair way towards achieving this international ambition, with recent moves into Poland and two manufacturing plants under way in China.

The logic of moving into new, developing markets where the demand is high and the competition less fierce is appealing. But the market's view of the stock is likely to remain coloured by the UK and Europe.

In the first half, the building products division was battling against an 11 per cent drop in new house starts, and a 16 per cent drop in roadbuilding. Home products were also squeezed, with demand for garage doors down 9 per cent.

There are signs of improvement both in Europe and the UK but the markets will take time to recover a strong momentum. The share-price dip after the results yesterday may also reflect the surprise departure of Francois Chene, the highly rated head of Hepworth Saunier Duval, the French subsidiary.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits of £69 million, down from £74.5 million in 1995. The shares trade on a par with the sector on a multiple of just under 14, a small discount to the market.



PFI

THE Private Finance Initiative is slowly but surely beginning to have an impact on the capital markets. Yesterday saw the launch of the second bond to be issued under PFI, whose aim is to encourage private finance of public work in a slightly more organised manner than the Eurotunnel flotation, the giant forerunner to the scheme.

Yesterday, BZW launched a £165 million bond to finance the £200 million extension of London's Docklands Light Railway south of the Thames into Lewisham. The £165 million bond was issued on behalf of CGLR — the City, Greenwich, Lewisham Rail Link — which has just been awarded the contract for the extension.

The first PFI bond was issued in March, by Road Management Consolidated (RMC), which put out a £165 million 25-year bond at 80 basis points over gilts. By comparison, the CGLR bond matures in 2020 and has been launched at 130 basis points over the gilt that matures in 2017. It was subsequently trading at 125 basis points over the comparable gilt.

The buyers were mainly British institutions. The bonds have been given a single A rating by Duff and Phelps and carry no third-party guarantee, unlike RMC's, which has its principal and coupon payments guaranteed by Ambac, the American insurer. RMC's bond, however, got a triple A rating from Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

Anglo United

THE idea is almost tempting. Anglo United shares are now priced at ½p. One might say that if the company had a plausible rescue strategy, the upside potential would be huge. How much lower can the shares go from ½p, an innocent investor might ask. They only have to creep back to 2p and one would have quadrupled one's money.

However, yesterday's performance by the shares should be a warning to anyone thinking of trying to make a quick buck. Anglo United went down 50 per cent yesterday, from 1p to ½p. And they could go down another 50 per cent, to ¼p. Anyone who invests in the shares now could see their money halved, not quadrupled. Ultimately, the shares might lose value altogether.

But is this likely? Does the management have a vaguely plausible rescue strategy? Plausible it is, but also risky. Anglo United is to sell off most of its activities and concentrate on oil exploration in the Falklands. The sell-off will need — and should get — shareholder approval. The company is working with its creditors and banks. Problems would, however, arise if Anglo's Falkland Islands Company ran into delays.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	973-963	Dec	1069-1067
Dec	995-992	Mar	1079-1076
Mar	1016-1015	Mar	1096 SLP
May	1030-1020	Jul	1096-1092
Jul	1044-1043		
Sep	1057-1055	Volume:	7212

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1560-1550	May	1405-1395
Nov	1505-1503	Jul	1396-1393
Jan	1452-1458	Sep	1402-1395
Mar	1417-1415	Volume:	[illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	325.5-26.0
Spot: 334.0		Oct	[illegible]
Dec	326.2-25.0	Dec	[illegible]
Mar	322.2-22.0	Mar	[illegible]
May	322.5-22.0	Volume:	[illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 26

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	104.08	113.04	94.05
(+/-)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eng/Wales	104.08	113.06	94.48
(+/-)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(%)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scotland	104.12	112.03	96.20
(+/-)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(%)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.00	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Nov)	22.80	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Dec)	22.40	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	24.00	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	23.45	+0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gasol	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gas Oil EEC	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.5 Fuel Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphtha	[illegible]	[illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL: [illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm): [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Nov	104.60
Jan	106.40
Mar	108.00
May	110.00
Jul	112.00
Volume:	700

BARLEY (close £/t)

Nov	102.25
Jan	103.25
Mar	104.75
May	106.25
Volume:	18

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	[illegible]	35.0
Mar		70.0
Apr	70.9	78.0
		Volume: 52

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Oct 96.25-96.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 96	995	995	995
Oct 96	1140	1125	1130
Nov 96	1205	1195	1197
Jan 97	1245	1225	1230
Vol: 105 lots		Open interest: 4767	

Index [illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gr A ($/tonne)	1994.0-1995.0	1965.0-1966.0	658275
Lead ($/tonne)	[illegible]	787.50-788.00	212150
Zinc Spec High Grade ($/tonne)	[illegible]	1027.5-1028.0	270750
Tin ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	23140
Aluminium High Grade ($/tonne)	1381.5-1382.5	1415.0-1416.0	1396325
Nickel ($/tonne)	7211.0-7212.0	7321.0-7325.0	59354

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom	420	44	46	46	[illegible]	[illegible]	14
(*453)	460	[illegible]	15	24	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
ASDA	100	5	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*104)	110	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boots	600	29	40	50	[illegible]	12	17
(*626)	650	2	14	27	25	[illegible]	42
Br Airways	500	[illegible]	44	57	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*530)	550	[illegible]	10	29	17	[illegible]	[illegible]
BP	650	12	29	40	[illegible]	21	29
(*654)	700	[illegible]	10	19	45	[illegible]	[illegible]
Br Steel	180	17	20	23	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*196)	200	3	8	12	[illegible]	13	15
C & W	420	[illegible]	44	55	[illegible]	[illegible]	13
(*453)	460	[illegible]	19	32	11	24	30
CU	550	51	65	72	0	[illegible]	17
(*600)	600	10	31	40	[illegible]	21	[illegible]
ICI	800	39	59	70	4	[illegible]	29
(*834)	850	[illegible]	31	42	26	[illegible]	54
Land Sec	650	59	57	67	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*699)	700	10	22	34	[illegible]	25	[illegible]
M & S	460	29	40	59	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*497)	500	7	19	31	[illegible]	19	22
Nat West	650	37	54	63	1	16	29
(*676)	700	6	29	36	29	37	54
Safeway plc	330	[illegible]	17	25	[illegible]	19	20
(*351)	360	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	29	34	[illegible]
Sainsbury	360	18	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17
(*375)	390	2	10	15	15	28	27
Shell	950	33	57	73	4	15	25
(*978)	1000	5	27	41	25	39	44
Smkl Bch	750	[illegible]	—		3	—	—
(*771)	765	[illegible]	—	—	21	—	—
Storehse	300	8	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
(*305)	330	1	—	—	26	—	—
Trafalgar	50	1	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
(*50)	60	0	—	—	10	—	—
Zeneca	1550	55	102	126	17	47	72
(*1580)	1600	30	77	101	40	71	[illegible]
	Series	Nov	Jan	Apr	Nov	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	420	20	35	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	20
(*434)	460	7	16	23	[illegible]	34	[illegible]
Vodafone	200	22	24	[illegible]	2	4	7
(*219)	220	9	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met	400	25	32	41	[illegible]	16	22
(*475)	500	[illegible]	15	22	27	40	42
Ladbroke	200	12	17	21	[illegible]	7	11
(*207)	220	2	[illegible]	11	15	17	21
Utd Bisc	240	9	15	17	6	[illegible]	14
(*240)	220	2	7	[illegible]	22	21	[illegible]

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BTR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Br Aero	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Br Telecm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cadbury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Guinness	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GEC	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hanson	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LASMO	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lucas Varity	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pilkington	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Prudential	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Redland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rolls Royce	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tesco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wellcome	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FT-SE INDEX: [illegible]

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Abbey Nat.	550	57	69	72	6	19	20
(*594)	600	24	34	43	22	42	42
Amstrad	140	13	—	—	7	—	—
(*143)	160	6	—	—	19	—	—
Barclays	900	56	75	94	16	35	44
(*941)	950	29	46	55	41	63	69
Blue Circ	360	39	43	47	4	8	13
(*391)	390	16	23	29	15	19	26
Br Gas	200	7	12	14	10	15	19
(*201)	220	1	9	7	28	27	32
Dixons	500	49	55	63	10	17	21
(*525)	550	14	27	34	34	41	45
EMI Group	1300	96	118	136	22	38	53
(*1360)	1350	59	87	109	42	60	72
Tarmac	90	9	11	12	3	4	6
(*95)	100	4	6	7	8	9	11
Hillsdown	180	16	12	14	7	[illegible]	14
(*182)	200	2	[illegible]	6	21	22	28
Lonrho	160	10	21	23	1	4	5
(*175)	180	7	10	12	9	12	14
Sears	100	7	—	—	2	—	—
(*104)	110	2	—	—	8	—	—
Thorn EMI	1700	71	—	—	37	—	—
(*1731)	1800	27	—	—	96	—	—
Tomkins	260	27	28	32	4	9	10
(*279)	280	11	16	21	12	17	19
Lloyds TSB	360	29	35	29	10	19	17
(*377)	390	12	19	24	20	30	32
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo W	950	50	78	90	7	19	31
(*994)	1000	14	47	65	19	37	53
HSBC	1200	38	76	99	12	36	62
(*1225)	1250	14	52	73	77	60	86
Reuter	700	45	67	81	2	16	27
(*740)	750	9	27	52	10	35	43
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Royal Insrnc	390	30	36	32	5	14	25
(*407)	431	7	11	15	31	37	44
	Series	Oct	Feb	May	Oct	Feb	May
Kingfisher	600	46	61	66	2	15	25
(*642)	650	9	30	39	24	37	39
	Series	Oct	Dec	Mar	Oct	Dec	Mar
Unilever	1350	34	80	74	7	22	34
(*1375)	1400	7	25	47	31	47	59
	Series	Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Natl Pwr	360	42	51	27	3	9	10
(*398)	400	13	26	—	16	22	—
Scot Pwr	294	20	27	—	5	10	—
(*306)	325	5	12	—	19	25	—

September 27, 1996 Tot: 12530 Call: 12017 Put: 14620 FT-SE Call: 2497 Put: 2567

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 59187	Dec 96	3969.0	3995.0	3968.0	3982.0	11118
	Mar 97	3993.0	3993.0	3993.0	3995.0	10
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3571	Dec 96				4435.0	0
	Mar 97					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 433392	Dec 96	94.02	94.06	94.00	94.04	21106
	Mar 97	93.87	93.93	93.84	93.90	21544
	Jun 97	93.60	93.69	93.59	93.64	20331
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.19	99.19	99.18	99.19	266
	Jun 97				98.99	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1025412	Dec 96	96.85	96.86	96.83	96.84	28517
	Mar 97	96.78	96.80	96.77	96.78	22525
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 140244	Dec 96	109-15	109-02	108-14	108-18	120617
	Mar 97				107-22	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	121.45	121.64	121.45	121.63	3106
	Mar 97	120.67	120.72	120.63	120.77	656
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 226314	Dec 96	98.87	99.04	98.67	98.74	158493
	Mar 97	97.80	97.80	97.71	97.74	154
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 21904	Dec 96	95.87	95.87	95.85	95.86	1495
	Mar 97	95.64	95.86	95.82	95.63	820
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 74920	Dec 96	98.43	98.47	98.39	98.41	3684
	Mar 97	98.34	98.43	98.32	98.34	2319
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 78950	Dec 96	121.75	122.50	121.35	121.90	95038
	Mar 97	121.10	121.10	120.95	121.15	114

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¾ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible].					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.33	n/a	5.48	5.62	5.85
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £2,729m allotted: £400m; Bids: £98.61% received: 15%; Last week: £98.615% received: 60%; Avge rate: £5.5510% last wk £5.5432%; Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $380.80-381.10 Close: $380.90-381.40 High: $381.40-381.90
Low: $379.00-379.50 AM: $380.30 PM: $380.70

Krugerrand: $380.00-382.00 (£242.50-244.50)

Platinum: $383.75 (£246.60) Silver: $4.93 (£3.145) Palladium: $117.75 (£75.35)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6659-2.6744	2.6725-2.6744	[illegible]pr	2¼-2pr
Brussels	48.910-49.110	49.025-49.110	15-11pr	38-31pr
Copenhagen	9.1260-9.1525	9.1453-9.1525	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9740-0.9773	0.9752-0.9766	3pr-1ds	6-1pr
Frankfurt	2.3764-2.3843	2.3825-2.3843	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	241.65-242.50	242.23-242.50	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	199.89-200.51	200.26-200.51	19-29ds	43-60ds
Milan	2373.1-2380.5	2378.9-2380.5	4-6ds	12-14ds
Montreal	2.1309-2.1359	2.1316-2.1333	0.37-0.32pr	0.71-0.63pr
New York	1.5498-1.5640	1.5633-1.5640	0.07-0.05pr	0.135-0.105pr
Oslo	10.132-10.165	10.157-10.165	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.0320-8.0596	8.0521-8.0586	[illegible]pr	4-[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.337-10.378	10.358-10.378	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	172.73-173.37	173.18-173.37	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	16.710-16.775	16.761-16.775	[illegible]pr	[illegible]-1pr
Zurich	1.9563-1.9649	1.9627-1.9649	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2618-1.2634
Austria	10.71-10.72
Belgium (Com)	31.36-31.37
Canada	1.3645-1.3650
Denmark	5.8505-5.8540
France	5.1503-5.1523
Germany	1.5231-1.5236
Hong Kong	7.7330-7.7340
Ireland	1.6015-1.6035
Italy	1520.80-1521.55
Japan	110.86-110.91
Malaysia	2.5075-2.5085
Netherlands	1.7091-1.7096
Norway	6.4932-6.4952
Portugal	154.95-155.05
Singapore	1.4075-1.4085
Spain	128.11-128.14
Sweden	6.6190-6.6270
Switzerland	1.2536-1.2546

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5636-1.5662
Australia dollar	1.9727-1.9753
Bahrain dinar	0.5830-0.5940
Brazil real*	1.5901-1.5944
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7180-0.7280
Finland markka	7.0750-7.1910
Greece drachma	371.50-378.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.0898-12.0991
India rupee	55.22-56.18
Indonesia rupiah	3583.0-3651.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4630-0.4730
Malaysia ringgit	3.9202-3.9243
New Zealand dollar	2.2325-2.2355
Pakistan rupee	57.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6175-5.7415
Singapore dollar	2.2005-2.2030
S Africa rand (com)	7.0270-7.1290
U A E dirham	5.6650-5.7890

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	477	LucasVarity	1,700
ASDA Gp	2,800	Marks Spr	2,400
Abbey Ntl	1,200	NatWst Bk	4,900
Allied Dom	243	Nat Grid	2,900
Argos	721	Nat Power	5,400
AB Foods	489	Next	901
BAA	1,100	Orange	2,800
BAT Inds	5,000	P & O	2,700
BOC	426	Pearson	122
BP	3,400	Pilkington	4,000
BSkyB	1,700	PowerGen	753
BTR	8,900	Prudential	1,700
BT	14,200	RMC	565
Bk of Scot	1,900	RTZ	2,900
Barclays	3,800	Railtrack	4,200
Bass	1,700	Rank Org	2,300
Blue Circle	442	Reckitt Col	447
Boots	1,600	Redland	1,100
BAe	456	Reed Intl	1,000
BA	2,200	Rentokil	2,900
Brit Gas	12,400	Reuters	2,900
Brit Steel	10,300	Rolls Royce	1,800
Burmah Cstl	285	Royal & Sun	2,500
Burton	1,700	Royal Bk Sct	1,900
Cable Wire	7,000	Safeway	661
Cadbury	4,800	Sainsbury	3,000
Carlton Cms	826	Schroders	21
Cm Union	724	Scot & New	563
Courtaulds	891	Scot Power	508
Dixons	2,200	Svrn Trent	1,400
EMI	747	Shell Trans	5,200
Enterpr Oil	2,500	Siebe	2,300
GKN	410	SmKl Bch	4,000
GRE	117	Smith Nph	1,200
GUS	1,800	Smiths Inds	390
Gen Acc	505	Sthern Elec	868
Gen Elec	4,800	Std Chartd	2,700
Glaxo Well	7,100	TI Gp	514
Granada	1,400	Tate & Lyle	124
Grand Met	3,600	Tesco	602
Guinness	3,300	Thames W	1,200
HSBC	1,300	Tomkins	1,900
Hanson	47,400	Unilever	3,600
ICI	2,300	Utd Utilities	1,100
Kingfisher	1,600	Utd News	1,400
LASMO	5,600	Vodafone	4,800
Ladbroke	1,400	Whitbread	508
Land Secs	366	Wllms Hld	1,200
Legal & Gn	223	Wolseley	1,300
Lloyds TSB	8,000	Zeneca	1,700

WALL STREET

	Sep 27 midday	Sep 26 close
AMP Inc	39	38
AMR Corp	79	79
ASA	38	38
AT & T	51	52
Abbott Labs	48	48
Advanced Micro	14	15
Aetna Life	69	68
Ahmanson (HF)	27	26
Air Prod & Chem	57	57
AirTouch Comm	27	27
Alberto-Culver B	43	43
Albertson's	42	41
Alcan Alumnm	30	30
Alco Standard	49	49
Allied Signal	64	64
Alum Co of Am	58	59
Amax Gold Inc	5	5
Amerada Hess	52	53
Amer Brands	42	42
Amer El Power	40	41
Amer Express	46	45
Amer Genl Corp	37	37
Amer Home Pr	63	64
Amer Intl	99	99
Amer Stores	40	39
Amer Standard	34	34
Ameritech	52	52
Amoco	70	69
Anheuser-Busch	37	36
Apple Computer	22	22
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	4	4
Armstrong Wrld	62	62
Asarco	26	27
Atl Richfield	127	126
Auto Data Prn	43	43
Avery Dennison	54	53
Avon Products	49	49
Baker Hughes	30	30
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	40	40
BankAmerica	81	82
Bank of NY	29	29
Bankers Tr NY	78	78
Barnett Banks	34	33
Bausch & Lomb	36	36
Baxter Intl	46	46
Becton Dickinsn	43	43
Bell Atlantic	59	59
Bell Industries	15	15
BellSouth	38	38
Black & Decker	40	41
Block (H&R)	29	29
Boeing	94	95
Boise Cascade	32	32
Bristol Myrs Sq	96	97
Browning Ferris	25	25
Brunswick	24	24
Burlington Nthn	83	84
CMS Energy Corp	29	30
CNA Financial	96	96
CPC Intl	74	74
CSX	50	49
Campbell Soup	78	78
Can Pacific	23	23
Carolina Pwr	34	34
Caterpillar	73	74
Central & SW	26	26
Champion Intl	44	45
Chase Manhat	80	80
Chevron Corp	61	61
Chrysler	28	28
Chubb Corp	45	46
Cigna Corp	119	119
Citicorp	90	90
Clorox	96	96
Coastal Corp	41	41
Coca Cola	50	51
Coca Cola Ent	44	43
Colgate-Palmolive	88	88
Columbia Gas	56	56
ColumbiaHCA	57	56
Compaq Comp	63	63
Comp Ass Intl	60	61
Conagra	48	48
Conrail	72	72
Cons Edison	28	28
Cons Nat Gas	54	54
Cooper Inds	43	41
Corestates	43	43
Corning Inc	38	38
Crown Cork	46	45
Dana Corp	29	30
Dayton Hudson	32	32
Deere	42	42
Delta Air Lines	71	70
Deluxe Corp	37	38
Digital Equip	36	36
Dillard Dept St	32	32
Disney (Walt)	62	62
Dominion Res	38	38
Donnelley (RR)	32	32
Dover Corp	47	47
Dow Chemical	81	81
Dow Jones	37	37
Dresser	29	29
Duke Power	47	47
Dun & Brdstrt	59	59
Du Pont	89	90
Eastman Chem	54	56
Eastman Kodak	77	77
Eaton Corp	60	60
Edison Intl	17	17
Emerson Elec	90	90
Engelhard Corp	23	23
Enron Corp	40	41
Entergy	26	26
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Fighting to keep its customers on line

Pru steps up battle for savers' cash

Insurer's new banking service will inspire its rivals to follow suit, says **Marianne Curphey**

The men from the Pru are going into banking, almost certainly to be followed by other big names in insurance. Behind the launch of the deposit-taking division, lies the wish to retain the cash from matured policies.

The move could transform the retail banking market within five years if the Prudential's imminent venture is successful. Rival life insurers will be watching carefully to see whether Prudential's attempt to poach customers from banks and building societies pays off. If it does, they will begin setting up their own banking operations.

Prudential announced this week that it was launching a range of mortgage products and deposit accounts aimed primarily at customers whose life policies were maturing and who had lump sums to invest. Its High Interest Deposit Account, which opens on Tuesday, is paying 3.1 per cent interest on balances of £500 and above, or 3.15 per cent on balances of £2,000 and above. Its 60-day Notice Account is paying 3.85 per cent on balances of £2,000 and 3.95 per cent on £5,000 upwards.

Prudential's life insurance rival Standard Life is just weeks from revealing details of its own deposit-taking service. John Hylands, general manager of marketing, says the service will be a simple postal instant access account offering rates that are "as good if not a little better than those offered by Prudential".

Some of the UK's largest insurers are currently examining the costs and advantages of running their own bank. Others, including Scottish Widows, Direct Line and Frizzell, have already opened theirs. Legal & General currently offers mortgages and is looking at the possibility of opening a banking service next year. Guardian Royal Exchange says it stopped selling its own mortgages to the general public in the 1980s and has no plans to set up its own bank. Insurers are unlikely to offer current accounts since these are costly and involve a lot of administration.

Observers believe that Legal & General, Norwich Union, Friends Provident and Allied Dunbar are all likely to be running their own banking services by the turn of the century, and mutual life insurers and large composite insurers may follow suit. Scottish Widows, a mutual fund, has been running a banking operation since May 1995.

Prudential's move is effectively a declaration of war on banks and building societies, intending to poach their customers and encourage people to keep their money with Prudential when their life policies mature. The move is essentially defensive: life insurers have seen banks and building societies encroach on their traditional customer base by launching their own life and pensions products.

Prudential is aiming its products at the mass market and pitching its opening savings rates for deposit accounts just above the average returns currently available from major banks and building societies. It pays out more than £1 billion annually in maturing policies and arranges around £700 million of mortgages each year through banks and building societies for its 6 million customers. It approached the Bank of England for a deposit-taking licence a year ago and this was granted earlier this month.

Mike Harris, chief executive of Prudential Banking, says he believes the rates are sustainable and claimed that postal accounts from building societies often offered high initial rates to attract customers and then reduced them. He hopes to woo existing Prudential savers away from building societies. "We are looking to attract people who need help in deciding to switch their account," he said. "We are not interested in 'hoppers' who jump from account to account chasing the best rates."

Halifax Building Society, which is about to convert to a bank, currently offers just 0.5 per cent interest on balances in its current account, and 2.15 per cent for savers with balances in its branch-based deposit account. Despite offering low rates, most of its savers are unlikely to switch to a rival building society until Halifax has converted to a bank to protect conversion bonuses.

The Halifax has adopted a wait-and-see response to the Pru's announcement. A spokesman said: "Prudential's savings product is priced very competitively but it will be interesting to see how long it can sustain such high rates in a low interest rate environment."

The Portman Building Society, which intends remaining mutual, is offering 4.5 per cent on all balances above £100 in its instant access account, and described the Prudential's rate as "a bit mean".

ANGUS MEWSE

The men from the Prudential go fishing for savers among their policyholders

Sweetener for Refuge investors

SHAREHOLDERS in Refuge Assurance will learn on Monday more details about the improved offer for the life insurer's merger with United Friendly.

The deal has been dogged by controversy after claims by a number of Refuge's large institutional shareholders that Refuge had been undervalued by around £400 million.

After much wrangling, Refuge announced a sweetener for its shareholders in the form of a new security which would give them the right to share in some of Refuge's surplus funds in the future. The release of these funds depends on the agreement of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Shareholders are likely to learn on Monday more information about the institutions' response to the improved offer and the votes already received in favour. Refuge has always maintained that it believes the merger will be successful.

Meanwhile, United Friendly shareholders have overwhelmingly backed the proposed merger between the two companies.

At an extraordinary general meeting which was opened and adjourned yesterday, Refuge said it had received acceptances for the deal from shareholders holding approximately 91.5 per cent of United Friendly ordinary shares. Shareholders who owned 71.6 per cent of B shares had also accepted the offer.

Refuge shareholders now have until October 16 to consider the improved offer. Refuge said the merger offers remain open for acceptance of confirmation until that date.

Refuge has said that, together with its advisers, it is "continuing to explore effective ways" in which this sweetener, in the form of a new security, might operate. This process is expected to be finalised over the weekend, with the help of Phoenix Securities, its advisers.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Rates need close look

Prudential's new banking service comes at a time when rates paid by high-street banks and building societies are at an historic low (Marianne Curphey writes).

A glance at the major players in the high street shows that few are paying more than 3 per cent interest on the average balance. **Halifax** is paying 2.5 per cent on its Liquid Gold instant-access account for balances of more than £2,500. **Abbey National** pays 2.45 per cent on balances of £500 and above for its Instant Saver account.

The **Woolwich**, which is in the process of converting to a bank, is among the least generous. Its Prime Gold instant access account pays 1.75 per cent on balances of £500 to £5,000. The **Alliance & Leicester**, which is also planning to convert, offers 2.45 per cent on balances of £500 and above, while the **Northern Rock** pays just 0.65 per cent on instant-access accounts with balances under £10,000.

The **Portman**, a building society which has pledged to remain mutual, and **Direct Line**, the motor and household insurer, come top with an instant-access rate of 4.5 per cent. This applies to balances of £100 or more at the Portman and £1,000 or more at Direct Line. **Nationwide**, another mutual building society, pays 2.8 per cent to savers with balances of over £500.

Scottish Widows Bank, which now has 10,000 savers after its launch in May 1995, offers 4.5 per cent on balances over £2,000 and runs the account by post and telephone.

According to *Moneyfacts*, the money information service, the highest postal account rates on balances of £2,500 are from the **Yorkshire** building society at 4.9 per cent and the **First National** building society at 5.10 per cent. All rates are quoted gross.

Prudential is launching a 60-day notice account, offering 3.85 per cent on balances of £2,000 to £5,000, although this figure includes an annual loyalty bonus of 0.5 per cent. To qualify, savers must make no more than two withdrawals per year and maintain a minimum balance of £2,000.

Among the best notice accounts, according to *Moneyfacts*, is **First National**'s 90-day account paying 5.5 per cent on balances of £2,500 and above.

Wooing over-50s, page 30

Have funds, will travel

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Investing in emerging markets still seems, for most of us, a peripheral venture into the exotic: a gamble on the side. That is out of date. For investors, at least, developing countries are developing faster than ever before. Poor Asian nations are scrambling up the ladder, ailing Latin American economies are at last benefiting from swallowing IMF medicine and former communist states are making up for lost time.

A new study from the International Finance Corporation, private enterprise affiliate of the World Bank, shows the pace of change. In the past decade, the number of national stock exchanges outside the established industrial world has doubled to more than 60. Listings have doubled to nearly 20,000 and their combined market value has multiplied by ten to £1,250 billion — about 30 per cent more than UK quoted shares.

The IFC has had a lot to do with this, promoting early investment trusts, mutual funds and unit trusts to enable Western investors to put capital into these markets when governments permitted. Since the mid-1980s, a thousand funds worth £85 billion have mushroomed in this fertile soil. Nearly half the money is in funds geared to Asian tigers and their cubs. Funds for India and China are now accelerating fast, though not without the odd crash.

For most private investors, however, the starting point should be global *emerging markets* funds, which leaven excitement with diversification. More than 250 of them, mostly transatlantic, are now worth £25 billion. They are no instant passport to riches. Since the start of 1986, the IFC composite index of emerging markets, calculated in dollars, has risen about 230 per cent. But you would have done as well on Wall Street. At home, the FT-SE all share index rose about 175 per cent and paid better dividends. Emerging markets were also more volatile, even in aggregate. Prices fell steeply in 1990, when the world economy faltered, and in 1994-95, after the Mexican panic. Investors still tend to descend on fashionable destinations like tourists, only to desert together too as the coach party moves on.

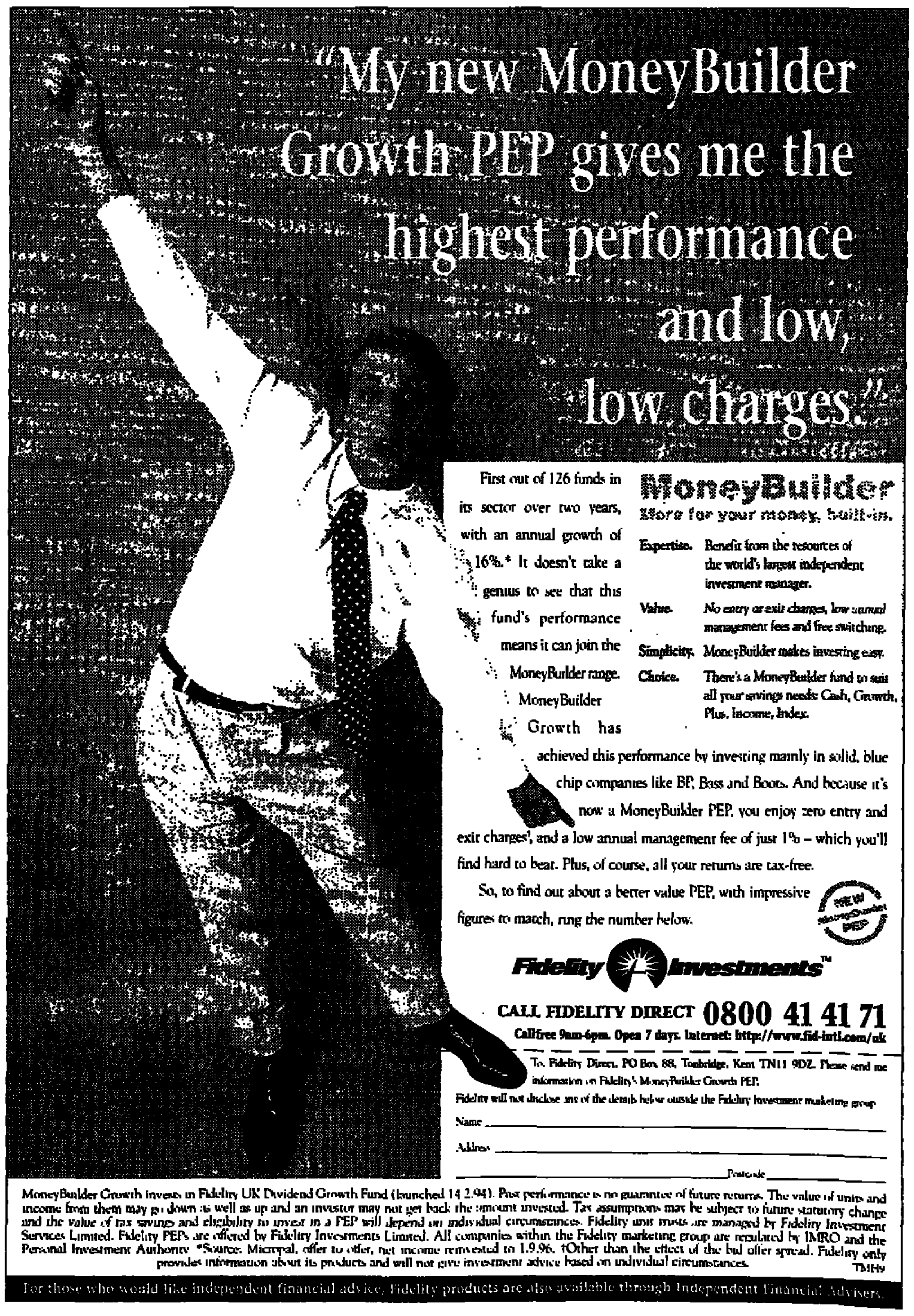
The good news is that emerging markets outperformed most of the time. After the post-Mexico crash, they now look ready to resume healthy growth as US investors realise that the rest of Latin America was not making the same mistakes and that Eastern Europe is seething with opportunity.

Those crashes each cut values by a third or more. The first one took four years to repair. The IFC index has not yet regained its 1994 peak. The message could not be clearer. Investing in emerging market funds is a long-term business. The minimum time horizon is five years and ten is better.

The other message is that the best funds do not invest in emerging *markets*, but in individual fast-growing companies. For that reason, the top specialist in this area can boast that the price of shares in Templeton Emerging Markets investment trust has grown threefold since 1989 while the IFC index has struggled to gain 25 per cent. The group's £6 billion of funds have outperformed most of the time since Sir John Templeton put money into Japanese growth companies in the 1950s.

The latest thoughts of Mark Mobius, Sir John's successor and now a legend in his own right, can be read in *Mobius on Emerging Markets* (Pitman £30). They reveal that the secret of emerging market investment is that there is no secret. Like some 1990s Victorian, Dr Mobius relies on a healthy body and healthy mind to prepare him for endless deep study and grinding hard work as he tours the globe for eight months a year visiting and investigating potential investments. Such a schedule distances you from the herd but you still need to be an optimist.

Potential is growing all the time. Other top managers such as Schroders are trying hard. Templeton will inevitably find it harder to beat the index so well. But the best global opportunities are unlikely to be grasped by me-too funds — or by casual me-too investors.



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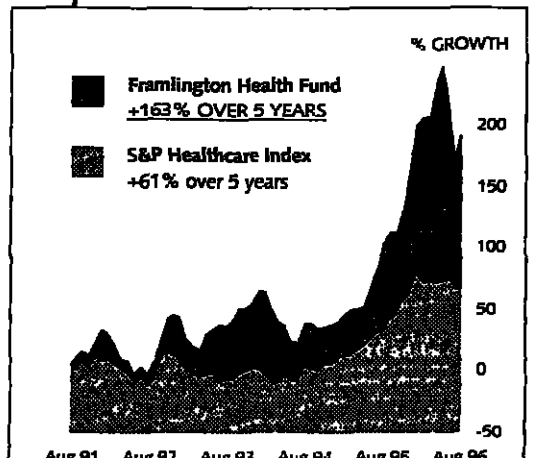

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1740/044

Sarah Jones looks at pensioners' bonds

Aiming high: the older saver wants to bag a good return that is guaranteed for several years

Societies woo the over-50 investor

Insurance companies have done it, and now banks and building societies are doing it — targeting the over-50s. And older savers, reliant on the monthly interest options, certainly need a little cheer in these days of paltry savings rates.

Birmingham Midshires Building Society this week launched a fixed-rate bond specifically for the over-50s "in an all-out attack on National Savings' £5 billion share of the pensioners' savings market", according to the society itself. The bond pays monthly interest of 7.3 per cent gross, fixed for five years. That rate compares well with the rate on the National Savings pensioners' bond of 7 per cent and beats all monthly-option five-year bonds currently on offer up to a balance of £50,000, when the Britannia takes over at 7.5 per cent.

David Taylor, investment manager of Birmingham Midshires, said: "By the turn of the century, there will be a record 10.8 million people over state retirement age, and with more than a fifth of the workforce now taking early retirement, there is a growing need for savings accounts which provide a regular income."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, launched the National Savings Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond three years ago to help those whose incomes are made unpredictable by changing interest rates.

In the last Budget, the age qualification was lowered from 65 to 60 because, a National Savings spokeswoman says, "the bond had proved it has a place in the market". The maximum investment was also raised, from £20,000 to £50,000. With nearly half a million holdings investing £5.5 billion in the bond, it is currently National Savings' lead product. National Savings rightly points out important differences between its pensioners' bond and that from Birmingham Midshires. The NS bond is more accessible, with a minimum opening balance of £500, compared with Birmingham Midshires' £2,500.

With the latter, no withdrawals are allowed in the first two years and after that instant access is subject to 120 days' loss of interest. With National Savings, you can withdraw your money, but with 60 days' loss of interest for 60 days' notice or 90 days' loss of interest for immediate withdrawal. Finally, interest, although taxable, is paid gross with the National Savings bond.

Birmingham Midshires
Building Society

With Birmingham Midshires, interest will be paid net of basic rate tax, but the society says that it will encourage non-taxpayers to fill out a R85 form so that they can have interest paid gross.

The Birmingham Midshires bond follows hot on the heels of the Retirement Savings Bond from Abbey National. That pays 7.25 per cent annual interest, or 7.02 per cent monthly interest, fixed for five years. The qualifying age is 60 and minimum investment is £2,500.

"It only takes one bank or building society to start a trend," says Christine Bayliss, of *MoneyFacts*, the savings information provider.

"It's basically a marketing exercise. They see a gap in the market and then pitch a product at it. They already offer something special for, say, students, so why not for the over-50s?"

A few other banks and societies do offer over-50s accounts. There are instant access accounts paying 4.5 per cent gross to the over-60s from the Marsden Building Society and the Nottingham Imperial Building Society, for example.

The Allied Trust Bank gives a 0.2 per cent bonus on its notice accounts, while the Market Harborough has a one-year bond called 55 Plus paying 5.15 per cent gross (5 per cent monthly) on a balance of £5,000.

The Principality Building Society's Investment Bond pays 6.82 per cent monthly, fixed until early 2000. The qualifying age is 60 and the minimum balance is £10,000.

Although there are specialist insurance companies for the over-50s, most insurers offer some sort of age-related discount for motor and house insurance, simply because older customers make fewer claims. On the other hand, travel insurance can be weighted against the over-50s, since they make more claims, especially for medical help.

Insignia prospectus revised

INSIGNIA CASHBACKED, a controversial Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), has changed its prospectus after pressure from a leading group of financial analysts.

Insignia uses the tax breaks available to EIS companies to offer investors a tax-free guaranteed return after five years — at least £1.20 for every £1 invested.

Under the scheme, which has already pulled in more than £3 million, five companies will be set up to market corporate hospitality facilities at polo events.

The issue is intended to raise £5 million. Because much of this will go into medium-term bank deposits, Insignia can guarantee the minimum sum that can be returned to investors after five years — regardless of the success of the polo venture.

However, the project, devised by Mills & Reeve, the Cambridge solicitors, and KPMG, the accountancy firm, encountered opposition from Allenbridge, a London firm of analysts, which said that there were too few details about Ascot Park, the earmarked polo venue, in the prospectus sent to potential investors.

In what Mills & Reeve describes as a precautionary measure, a supplementary prospectus has now been sent, showing restrictions on the use of facilities at the venue, as well as conditions applying to the planning permission.

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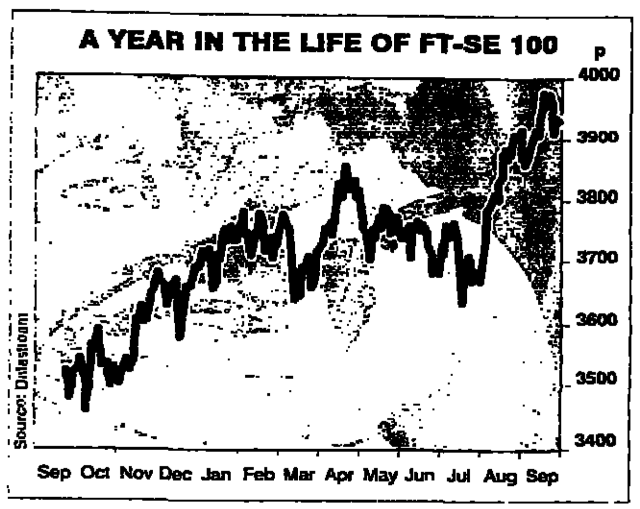
Politics will keep the stock market in state of uncertainty, says **Marianne Curphey**

Market jitters set to continue until election

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF FT-SE 100



The FT-SE has crept up steadily but the market is worried that Gordon Brown's deliberations on tax may result in bad news for some shares

Political uncertainty and worries about whether a crash is just around the corner left the markets feeling jittery this week. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,946 yesterday, down 18 points on last Friday's close of 3,964.

But the UK stock market looks set for another week of nervousness as the Labour Party conference opens on Monday. The City will be waiting anxiously to hear Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's plans for the economy. The prospect of a Labour government is already somewhat built into the price of UK shares, but until now both politicians have been deliberately vague about the changes they will make.

Michael Ashbridge, investment director of Save & Prosper, says markets will also be depressed over the next week because the reporting season for big companies is coming to an end. This means there will be precious little good news to buoy up share prices.

Labour is widely expected to take a swipe at the privatised utilities: water, electricity and gas, in the form of a windfall tax, and this could mean bad news for shares in those sectors over the coming months. The City will also be upset by any indication, however slight, that Tony Blair might give in to union pressure. The Labour leader has been careful to distance himself from the party's old-style relationship with the manufacturing unions, but signs of weakness or promises of concessions on his part will unsettle the City.

Mr Ashbridge believes these two factors will mean the FT-SE 100 index will fluctuate in a band of 15-30 points above or below its current rate next week. Over the longer term, as the general election becomes increasingly closer, many shares will become more volatile. Investors who want to switch to sectors traditionally immune from political worries could look at pharmaceuticals, food producers and food retailers, he says.

However, although the larger food retailers such as Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda have been doing reasonably well, some of their smaller rivals have been struggling.

According to Nicholas Davies, private client analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the FT-SE 100 index is unlikely to break through the 4,000 figure in the coming week. He says talk of an impending crash in the UK stock market may have been overdone. "At the moment I do not believe the UK is overvalued compared with other international markets," he said. "As a whole, the UK is cheaper than the US and Swiss markets, and considerably cheaper than Japan."

As further proof, he points to the price/earnings ratio of UK stocks, which are currently around 15-16. The p/e ratio is a figure calculated by dividing the current share price of a company, market sector, or market by the earnings for each share or shares. In the mid-1980s before the stock market crash the figure was far higher, at around 18 times.

Mr Davies's worry is that, although the UK market is not overheating, the US market may well be doing so. If US growth continues and interest rates have to rise to prevent the market overheating, the US stock market may well take a dive. That, in turn, would affect stocks in the UK, which are strongly influenced by events in the US.

Mr Davies, however, is not concerned about Labour's tax plans. It was rumoured this week that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is proposing to raise the top rate of income tax from 40 to 50 per cent for people earning more than £100,000 a year.

Describing the plans as "mild", Mr Davies added: "I do not believe Labour is intending to tax individuals heavily — that is what lost them the last election. Instead, they will be looking at a windfall tax on the privatised utilities which are an easy target."

Cash in hand — after at least a week

Nigel Williamson on the hassle of sending money abroad

Europe is now a single market. Money can be transferred across borders without bureaucracy, delay or exorbitant cost. At least, that is the theory.

Earlier this month my eldest son started an exchange year at Grenoble University in France. As he will be there until next June, the usual methods of dealing with holiday money abroad were inappropriate and he opened an account with Banque Populaire, one of France's largest banks.

He soon discovered that although financial traders in London, Frankfurt and Paris may transfer millions instantly at the press of a computer button, for the private individual there is still no fast, easy and cheap way to transfer funds between British and European banks.

The bank in Grenoble immediately offered our 19-year-old a cheque book, cash cards and all the usual facilities of modern banking. The difficulties only started seriously when we tried to transfer money from Britain into the new account.

The main family account in Britain is with NatWest. Our son also has a student account (and a large overdraft) with Barclays. Both banks publish attractive booklets on how easy it is to make payments abroad. Yet under all the gloss the bottom line is that standard transfers from a personal account with a British bank will take at least a week and up to two weeks before the funds can be drawn at the other end.

To be fair, the delays are the fault of the system rather than the British banks. NatWest's standard transfer service guarantees that the money leaves the account here the following day. But British banks cannot guarantee how long a payment will take to reach its destination, then process and clear. Experience suggests ten days is about average. For this NatWest charges £8 for under £250 and £12 for larger sums. French banks at the other end charge slightly more.

In response to these problems and to the demands of the single market, in 1994 NatWest introduced a system known as Relay. The other clearing banks followed with similar schemes.

This model of banking simplicity involves a flow chart, conveniently printed in the NatWest brochure, to explain the six processes: passing from customer to the branch, to the computer centre, to overseas computer centre, to the local clearing system, the beneficiary's bank and to the recipient — all in six days.

Nor is the Eurocheque facility offered by all British banks much help. This scheme has been expanded to include a European debit-card facility (EDC). Yet it carries a charge of 2.25 per cent of the total amount of the cheque and is restricted to a maximum in local currency of little more than £100.

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

When it is prudent to be sceptical

Should a Prudential salesperson attempt to woo you with the attractions of the company's new savings account range, be sceptical. Indeed, you might conclude that a recommendation to put your money in the Prudential bank could be stretching the concept of "best advice" to its limits.

The Pru claims — with truth — that it matches the rates offered by the competition (see page 29). However, although the Halifax and the other societies headed for the stock market may be offering poor returns, millions of their members can look forward to their parcels of free shares next summer. Pru savers cannot anticipate any such happy event.

To attract customers, the Pru will be relying on the general ignorance about interest rates. The company will also make much of the convenience of its postal service. However, this transaction option is now the norm, generally combined with superior rates.

Pension legacy

A striking poster, in toning beiges, pink and rust is now being pinned to the walls of many company pension offices. It is not a paint colour chart for an imminent refit, but a fearsome checklist, drawn up by a firm of actuaries. The poster sets out the various tasks to be completed to ensure that the scheme complies with the provisions of the Pensions Act before April 6, 1997. The Act, the legacy of the Robert Maxwell affair, requires schemes to fulfil various extra obligations, such as providing fuller information to employees.

The cost of these much-needed measures is, meanwhile, causing pause for thought in executive suites. Companies running traditional final salary schemes must themselves bear the expense of these improvements, the most significant being the limited price indexation of pensions. But those firms with money purchase schemes can pass the bill onto members.

The result, as we report on page 32, is an urge to switch to the money purchase model. Employees who hear that their companies are contemplating such a move should prepare their own checklist. Payouts from money purchase schemes, the pensions innovation of the age of flares, depend on the performance of the investments.

This means that employees must establish how much the employer intends to pay in, comparing the figure with the current contribution to the final salary scheme. They should also discover whether their own payments will increase and demand plentiful information on the fortunes of the fund.

In the same way that people with personal pensions have learnt that retirement savings must be guarded with vigilance, company scheme members must awaken from their complacency. This may be the final lesson of the Maxwell scandal.

Poor but frank

Anyone with an endowment loan will gasp to see the large difference that separates the top and bottom performing mortgage plans (see page 33). However, those companies, including Pearl, that failed to respond to the survey are said to have produced even worse results than those companies that came clean. *Weekend Money* now challenges the silent ones to reveal their figures. If they do not, then we can all presume that the claim is true.

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Fiona Bawdon on the switch to money purchase schemes

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Putting money into a pension was not often the priority for the Tony Hancock character keen to escape the rat race

A costly path in pensions

Recent research shows that large numbers of workers may have anything but a comfortable old age as the income from their occupational pension will be inadequate. Employees whose pension is linked to their level of salary on retirement may end up twice as well off as those with so-called money purchase schemes, according to a survey by the Association of Consulting Actuaries. It found that total pension contributions for those in money purchase schemes are substantially lower (on average 7.2 per cent of payroll less) than contributions for those in final salary schemes.

Despite this, the shift away by companies from providing final salary schemes towards money purchase arrangements is set to continue. Just under half of 468 firms surveyed said they were considering switching. This trend has been given added impetus by the 1995 Pensions Act, which introduces more stringent administration and funding requirements which will add to costs.

Q What is the difference between a final salary and a money purchase scheme?

A With a final salary scheme the level of pensions will be related to how much the individual was earning when he retired — generally the longer he has been in the scheme the higher the proportion of final salary he will get. The employee will usually have contributed a fixed percentage of his salary with a money purchase scheme; the company and employee will both contribute a percentage of salary. The money is then invested on the individual's behalf. The amount of pension he receives will depend on how these investments have performed over the years and is not related to final salary or length of service.

Q Why are some companies switching away from offering final salary schemes towards money purchase?

A The main reason is to save money and to put a limit on their potential liabilities. Changes in legislation such as the 1995 Pensions Act mean that final salary schemes are increasingly expensive to run. Companies often complain that they mean signing a blank cheque — benefits payable are not linked to any underlying pension performance. If the money is not in the fund the company will have to make it up. But Ron Spill, pensions consultant at Legal & General, thinks their unpredictability is often exaggerated. "Given some sort of stability in the workforce and the economy in general, final salary costs should be expected to be fairly stable," he says. Other reasons cited include that some companies do not feel they get much benefit from running final salary schemes, which were intended to attract and retain good staff. Dick Squires of Watson Wyatt & Partners, the actuaries, says that apart from senior staff or those approaching retirement most people do not pay much attention to a company's pension provision. "Someone in their twenties who has the choice between working for a company paying £15,000-plus final salary scheme or one paying £16,000 but with no fringe benefits is going to choose the money."

Q Are employees always better off with a final salary scheme?

A Usually yes. But there are exceptions. Final salary schemes are ideal for people who spend most of their working life with one company, something which is becoming increasingly rare. As workers move from job to job they may face the choice of leaving little bits of pension scattered among different companies, or accepting relatively poor transfer values. For a mobile workforce, money purchase schemes may be a better bet. Much will depend on what companies introduce instead. Ron Spill says some of them are replacing final salary schemes where they contributed, say, 12 per cent of salary with money purchase arrangements, where they pay just 8 per cent. Others, however, are more generous, tailoring arrangements to suit an individual's age. The older they are, the more the company will contribute. As the market for money purchase schemes grows, so it is likely to become more competitive as new players enter the market. According to Dick Squires, this is likely to drive down charges and lead to improvements in policy terms.

Q If I'm already in a final salary scheme will I lose out if my employer switches to a money purchase scheme?

A There are strict rules governing the winding up of a final salary scheme. If you are already retired, the amount of money received should be unaffected by the change. If you are below retirement age and have accrued a pension entitlement with a former employer, your rights should be similarly protected. The company must either seek your agreement to buy out your interest — in which case you should take independent advice to check that you will not be left worse off; or it can buy a special policy called a Section 32, which underwrites your original entitlement.

For existing workers who are members of a final salary scheme which is being wound up, the position is slightly more complicated. Whatever entitlement they have accrued up until that point will be given a transfer value which can be invested in the new scheme. However, just because the amount going into the new scheme reflects their entitlement at that point, this does not mean the amount they get when they retire will match what they would have got had they stayed on a final salary scheme all the way through. Again, any employee in this position should seek professional advice.

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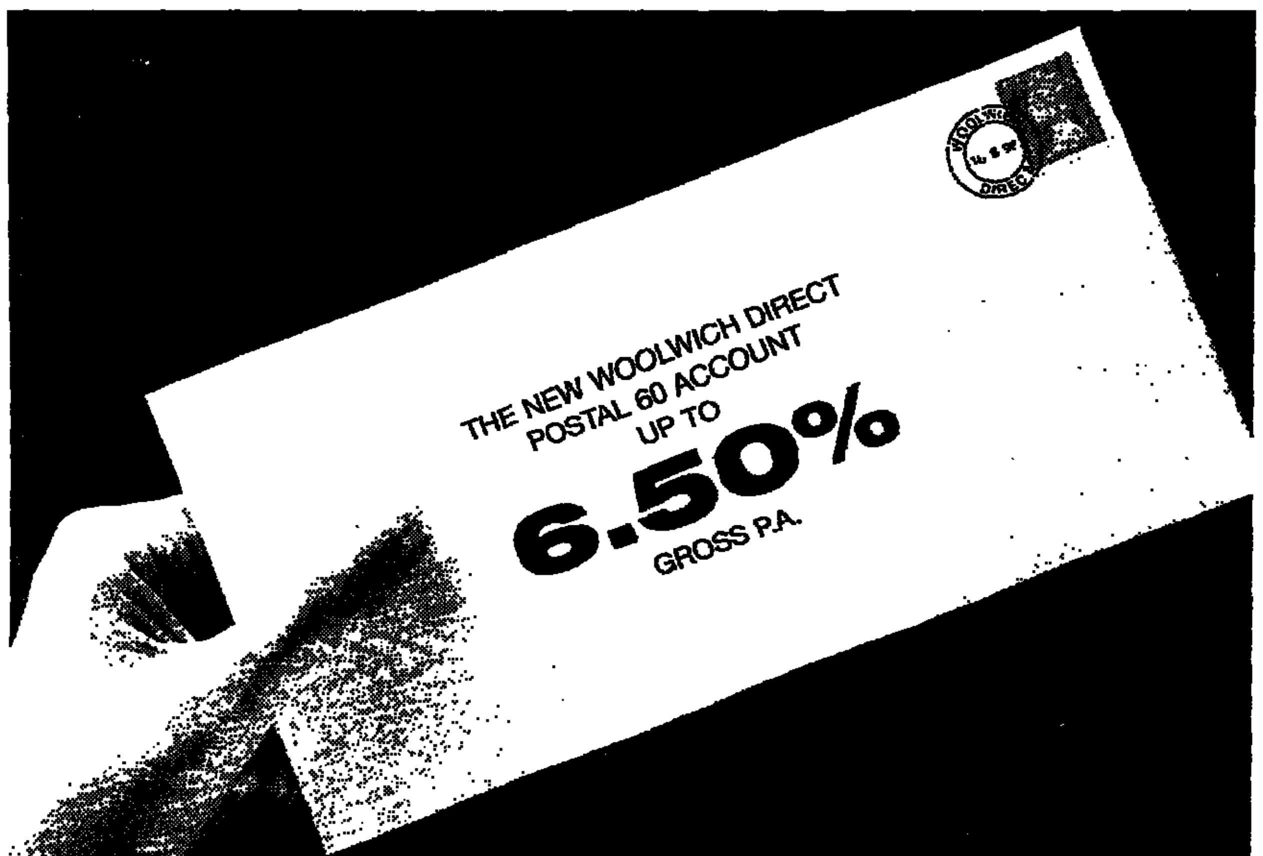
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هكذا من الأصل

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Telephone mortgages are having a growing effect on lending. **Sarah Jones** assesses their impact

Direct approach gives borrowers another dimension

That little red telephone has had a profound effect on mortgage lending. Viewers may not remember which company the phone belongs to or know that the company is owned by a major bank. But it has forced other lenders to dive into the telephone mortgage market, which demands both good deals and quick service.

Direct Line, owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, started life as a phone-in motor insurance operator but two years ago moved into mortgages, offering just one product, a market-leading variable rate. That is currently 6.05 per cent and last month Direct Line took a 2.5 per cent share of all new lending.

At the same time Bank of Scotland also launched a direct arm, and was followed by Bradford & Bingley and the Woolwich. All four are offering variable-rate mortgages that compete with, and undercut, those in their branch network.

For example Bradford & Bingley Direct has a variable rate of 5.99 per cent, compared with 6.74 per cent at branches. For Woolwich the rates are 6.35 and 6.99 per cent respectively and for the Bank of Scotland, 6.49 and 6.99 per cent. If you have mortgaged through the branch, you have to remortgage, in effect, with the direct arm to get a better direct rate.

As yet the bigger operators have not moved into direct sales for mortgages. But Alliance & Leicester will be piloting an operation early next year, while the Halifax is concentrating on selling motor insurance at the moment but says it may consider mortgages after its conversion into a bank.

TONY WHITE

Peter Wood started Direct Line as a phone-in insurer

Mortgages sold by telephone offer better rates than those sold at branches because overheads are lower. Furthermore, direct operators do not offer the more expensive packages with discounts and cash backs.

As well as the direct arm of banks or building societies, there are providers who offer telephone mortgages simply by virtue of not having a branch network. They offer more than just a variable-rate product. First Direct has provided mortgages since its launch seven years ago but has recently been more actively marketing its products to existing customers. There is a variable rate at 6.49 per cent or a competitive five-year fixed rate of 7.99 per cent with no redemption penalties. National Counties is also effectively a direct lender, currently offering a two-year discount with a payable rate of 4.49 per cent.

Whether the direct deals are worth taking depends on the type of borrower you are, says Phillip Cartwright of the mortgage brokers London & Country. "The direct mortgage is a very simple product. If you think you might be moving soon or will want to pay off part of your mortgage, an ongoing low variable rate from a direct lender will work for you. But don't assume that just because you are dealing over the phone, you are getting the best deal."

He went on: "If you are thinking long-term, you could get a better fixed or discounted rate elsewhere." Moreover with many of the direct deals, you can only borrow 70 or 75 per cent, whereas branches lend 95 per cent.

Telephone mortgages suit those with busy lifestyles since the service is normally faster and less hassle. But Mr Cartwright points out that if it is convenience that you want, most branch networks will in fact deal over the telephone.

BT challenge, page 37

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First Mortgage 0171 4206323	5.95	6.85	variable	90%
Brad & Bing Dir 0800 258258	5.99	6.74	variable	75%
Direct Line 0181 6499099	6.05	6.05	variable	90%
First Direct 0345 100103	7.99	6.49	fixed until 31/09/01	95%

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ANDRE CAMARA

Lynn Fisher found that First Direct's mortgage service perfectly suited her busy lifestyle

The essence is speed

THE fraught experience of moving house was eased somewhat for Lynn Fisher by arranging her mortgage directly through her bank (Sarah Jones writes).

"I did look around at other mortgages, but the deciding factor was the way I knew First Direct would deal with the mortgage process," says Ms Fisher, human resources director for a City investment bank. "My busy lifestyle meant I wanted to talk to the bank late in the evening and to know that whoever I spoke to would be up to speed on whatever stage the mortgage was at."

She got her mortgage offer within a few days of the survey. "In contrast, our purchaser went through the traditional building society route and that seemed to slow down the process," she says.

Ms Fisher also appreciated the flexibility of First Direct's variable-rate mortgage, with no penalty for paying off large amounts, and no insistence on insurance cover.

Her only complaint was with the survey, which First Direct contracts out to a company called Direct Valuations. "In marked contrast to First Direct, the surveying side was slow and inefficient," says Ms Fisher, who moved into her new home in Wandsworth two weeks ago.

Papers at hand before phoning

Before you pick up the phone, you need to amass the sort of information you would take along to a branch: employment details, income, outgoings and life policies.

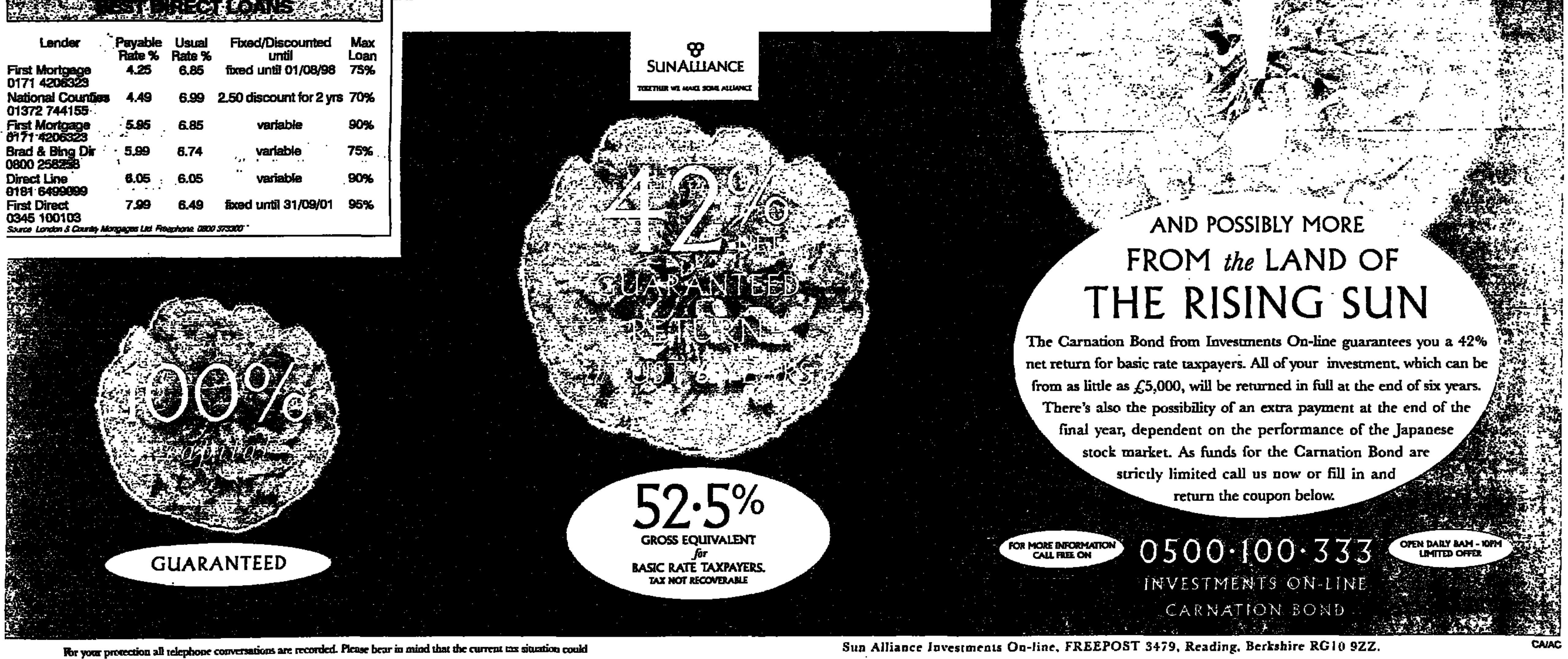
You can then call and those details will be fed into a computer and you will be given a decision on the application immediately.

With other necessary information, such as details of the property, your solicitor, bank and existing lender, you can move on a stage further — to an agreement in principle.

Direct Line says this whole process takes about 40 minutes.

At that point it becomes a postal mortgage. The lender's computer will send letters to you, your employer and valuer asking for documents which have to be sent back to the lender. The application can then be approved and legal documents are sent to the solicitor handling the conveyancing.

With First Direct you will be sent an application form but, as long as the information is to hand, much of that can be filled in by the operator during the first call.



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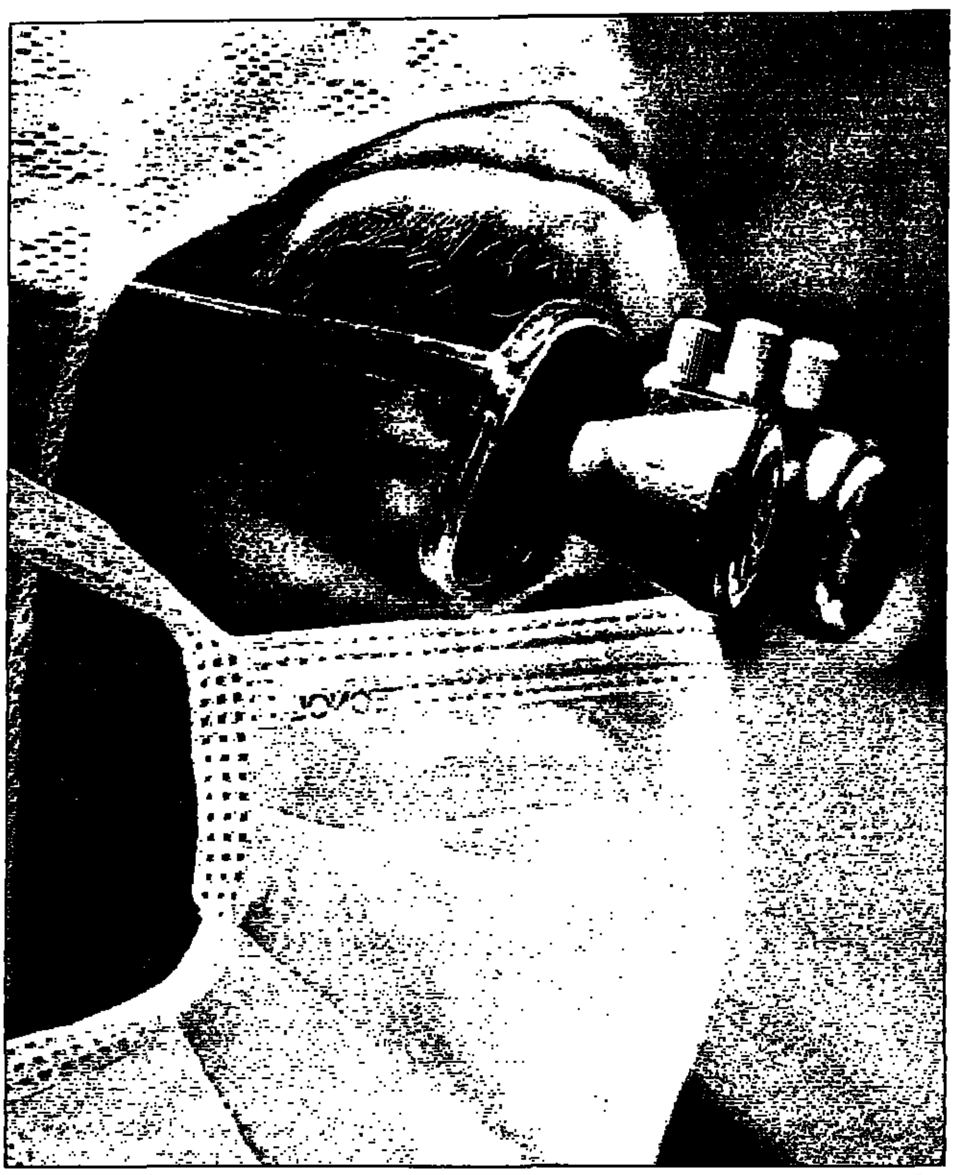

Heart attacks and bypass surgery are among core conditions covered by most policies

When it's critical, take care

Helen Pridham looks at the complications surrounding a special class of health cover

If you are of working age, the chances of suffering a serious medical condition and surviving are considerably greater nowadays than the risk of dying before retirement. As a result many insurers are now suggesting that life insurance should take second place to critical illness insurance, which pays out a lump sum if you are diagnosed as suffering from a serious illness.

This view was expressed recently by Peter Robertson, marketing manager at Standard Life, one of the leading providers. An increasing number of consumers are being persuaded, attracted by the idea of receiving a cash sum that they can use to pay off their mortgage, pay for home nursing, buy special equipment or whatever.

The first critical illness policy was launched in 1986. After a relatively slow start, there are now 60 companies offering policies. According to the reinsurer, Employers Re, there are now more than 900,000 policies, of which 300,000 were sold last year.

Unfortunately for consumers, buying a critical illness policy is nowhere near as straightforward as taking out pure life insurance. No single critical illness policy is quite like the next. Not only must you consider the type of policy you are buying, but you must also look carefully at the medical conditions covered.

Most policies cover six core illnesses or procedures: cancer; heart attack; stroke; kidney failure; major organ transplants; and heart bypass surgery. The list may include only a couple more or it can extend to more than 30 specified conditions. Plans with the lengthiest lists may not always be the best. But a restricted list can leave gaps in cover.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The most restricted lists tend to be on policies sold by the bancassurers, such as Black Horse Life and Midland Life, though with their large customer bases they are becoming the most dominant forces in this field.

Until recently Midland only covered eight complaints, though it has now extended the list to 11. Steve Foot, its spokesman, argues: "Our policies may have a shorter list of complaints than others but they do cover over 95 per cent of the claims made."

According to Employers Reassurance International's annual survey of critical illness claims, most of the 4,000 claims received by insurers as at the end of 1995 arose out of five main causes — cancer, 50 per cent; heart attack, 24 per cent; stroke, 8 per cent; multiple sclerosis, 6 per cent; and heart bypass surgery, 5 per cent. Only 7 per cent covered "other" complaints.

However, John Joseph, an independent financial adviser based in London and an expert on critical illness insurance, urges consumers to choose policies with wider cover. "Knowing that most claims are covered is no consolation to a policyholder who has developed a complaint that is not on the list. That is why I want my clients to have insurance for every critical illness possible. What's more it is not necessarily much more expensive to have a policy that covers a wider range."

Another problem for consumers is that not all companies define conditions in the same way. Having studied different insurance companies definitions, Alan Lakey of Highclere Financial Services in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, says: "It is a real minefield. Some insurers are much less generous in their definitions than others."

Most insurers, for example, provide cover for coronary bypass surgery where there is one coronary artery blockage. Black Horse Life, however, insists that at least two arteries must be affected. It is particularly important to look carefully at the definition of "permanent total disablement". Most insurers include this cover in policies and some with relatively short lists of specified conditions argue that it is a "catch-all" that will encompass serious illnesses not specifically mentioned.

But Mr Lakey points out that the method of determining whether you qualify for payment is based on different criteria. "Insurers link it either to your ability to follow your own occupation, or your own occupation or one similar, or any occupation," he says. "Some base it on your ability to perform certain everyday tasks. The best definition is 'own occupation'."

The "any occupation" or task-based definitions are the toughest to satisfy. But in all cases, any disability must be both total and permanent.

According to Lee Lovett, senior marketing manager at Employers Re, permanent total disability claims are the least successful. "Approximately 60 per cent have been declined — and more than 80 per cent of these because the definition has not been satisfied. This is a major source of concern for those involved in critical illness insurance. Providing the client with a better understanding of the cover and/or coming up with a more objective definition would clearly be in everyone's interest," he says.

CRITICAL ILLNESS POLICIES

Critical-illness insurance can be bought in several forms. There are policies which pay out only if you develop a critical illness or which include life insurance and pay out either on the diagnosis of a critical illness or on death.

Policies can be taken out for a fixed period, either through term assurance or an endowment, or on a whole of life basis.

Patrick Bunton of London & Country Lifeline, an independent financial adviser, argues in favour of fixed term, guaranteed-premium policies such as that offered by Swiss Life.

"The problem with whole of life policies, which have reviewable premiums, is that you have no idea exactly how much you will have to pay for cover in ten or 15 years' time," he says.

Mr Bunton also advocates combined critical illness and life-insurance cover. "Under a critical-illness policy you must survive for at least 14 to 28 days after diagnosis of a complaint. If you have a heart attack and die within a few days, your family will not receive anything if there is no death benefit," he says.

However, as the Office of Fair Trading pointed out recently, the snag with combined policies that pay out on critical illness is that policyholders are then left with no life insurance. The OFT suggested policyholders should be given the option of "buying back" life cover. This is a feature of such policies in Australia. The UK insurance industry is now looking into this idea.

Where cover is taken out to pay off a mortgage, however, ongoing life cover for that purpose will no longer be necessary because the first payment at the onset of the illness will have done the job.

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Neil Baker and **Eric Reguly** on a £214m challenge

BT wrestles to keep home users on line

British Telecom has finally gone on the assault in the residential market, favouring the home user for the first time.

Reductions are primarily aimed at stemming the flow of customers to cable companies such as TeleWest, Nynex and Bell CableMedia, whose phone charges are generally less expensive, and at fending off competition from newcomers such as AT&T, the US telephone group.

While BT is not claiming that the latest cuts make its services as cheap as the cable companies', it is saying that the gap is narrowing.

The cable companies dismiss the claim. In the past they have more or less matched BT's price cuts. The question now is whether they can afford to keep doing so. None of the cable companies is making a profit, a fact reflected in their dismal share prices.

BT said the new reductions will save residential customers about £120 million a year and business customers about £94 million a year, for a total of £214 million.

From October 8 the cost of evening and night-time national calls will come down 20 per cent, from 5.8p to 4.65p a minute, while daytime national calls will fall 10 per cent, from 9.8p to 8.8p.

Overseas calls are becoming significantly cheaper. BT slashed international weekend call charges earlier this week by between 5 per cent and 23 per cent and yesterday reduced weekday calls by between 10 and 25 per cent. A five-minute call to the US or Canada next month will be 92p a minute, down 31 per cent from early September.

Buying call packages such as "PremierLine" and "Friends & Family" can save residential customers another 15 per cent to 25 per cent.

BT said that the latest price cuts will reduce a residential customer's average quarterly bill, including line rental charges to £54.86, excluding VAT, from £56.61.

But Bell CableMedia, the cable operator which has 17 UK franchises covering 2.1 million homes, has already cut call costs ahead of the BT reductions to maintain what it claims is a 25 per cent discount on BT residential bills. A spokeswoman said that further cuts would be made to match any from BT.

Bob Frost of the CCA said that while cable companies offer cheaper call costs, they can also offer services similar to BT's add-on services such as "Call Minder", the personalised answering service, "Call Diversion" and "Call Barring". And in an increasing number of franchise areas customers can keep the same phone number if they leave BT. He said that by the end of the year any residential customer leaving BT will be able to keep their number.

It's good to make comparisons: Bob Hoskins sells BT

Most cable companies will hook your home up free of charge if you decide to subscribe to their TV services, but otherwise they will charge around £30. BT charges £99 plus VAT for installation of a new line.

A bewildering array of discounts and add-on services are on offer

Residential customers who want to stick with BT can still make savings with some of the new services offered by telecoms companies such as Mercury, long-time BT rival, and AT&T and WorldCom, the two US giants which entered the UK market this summer.

AT&T offers "Calling Service", which it claims is just the first of a bundle of services it plans to launch for home users in coming months.

Subscribers pay one of two flat rates on a national call — 6p per minute between 8am and 6pm or 3p per minute at all other times. That compares to 8.8p and 4.65p under BT's new prices. When you sign up you also choose an area in the world to which you would like to make discounted long-distance calls — America, Asia, Australia-New Zealand or the European Union. Savings on calls to your chosen zone can be as high as 40 per cent on the regular BT price.

The service costs between £3.99 and £5.99 per quarter depending on the choice of zone. There is an extra 3.5p per call connection charge.

A subscriber to the service who took up the option of discount calls to America would pay £1.93 for a ten-minute call to New York. The call would cost between £2.23 and £2.52 under BT's new prices or £2.62 under "SmartCall", a scheme operated by Mercury.

That comparison makes AT&T look like the best value, but Mercury is cheaper if you are calling Paris. Subscribers to Mercury's SmartCall service pay a £5.75 fee per quarter, which is more than AT&T. But they get a 5 per cent discount on all calls made to five nominated numbers.

They also benefit from a new scheme which provides between 15 minutes and two hours of free calls, depending on how big their bill is. A customer spending between £25 and £34.99 would be credited with 30 free UK weekend minutes. For national calls, they pay 17.6p for five minutes, which is also cheaper than AT&T or BT.

AT&T say they can save you money if your regular BT phone bill is at least £100 a quarter. But you can still save on your calls even if you do not make enough to want to sign up to a subscription service.

With another new service announced this summer, holders of a Visa credit card issued by Saga, the financial services and travel company, can save up to 23 per cent on national calls and 41 per cent on international calls, without paying any one off fee.

Saga has a deal to provide the service with WorldCom, the US telecom company. People using the service dial a three-digit number before making calls, which are then billed to their Saga Visa card. The call costs are paid in the same way as any other purchases made with the card. Users pay 18.9 per cent interest and there is no annual fee.

The Saga service can also save you up to 20 per cent on calls to between four and 35 miles of your home. Subscribers have to be aged over 50.

Anyone with a telephone at home can make big savings on their BT bills through existing discount schemes, many of which are free.

You can save 10 per cent on calls made to five nominated numbers under the "Friends & Family" scheme, just by dialling 150 and telling BT which numbers you want to pick. The scheme allows for one mobile number and one overseas. If you agree to pay £1 per quarter you can add five more overseas numbers.

For £24 a year you can join "Premierline", which gives you a 15 per cent discount on all direct dialled local, regional, national and international calls and 5 per cent on calls to mobile phones. This can be combined with Friends & Family for a 25 per cent discount on the five numbers you call most.

Whether you decide to abandon BT and move to cable, subscribe to a new service for long-distance calls or just take up the BT discount schemes which are already available, it pays to look at your next phone bill and ask whether it really needs to be so big.

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Source: Moneyfacts 17th September 1996

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Financial guide for the fresher

As 300,000 undergraduates prepare for the inevitable dive into debt, Midland Bank is offering a free guide setting out the do's and don'ts of managing money. Full of practical advice, it is debatable whether students will heed the guide's warning not to go over budget in the first term, when so many social events are offered. *Coming To Terms With Money* is available from branches.

☐ Maternity rights are complex for both employer and employee. Eversheds, the law firm, has designed a ready reckoner, the Maternity Wheel, to assist personnel managers in calculating key dates to an employee's maternity rights. Telephone 0171 919 4500.

☐ For those willing to lock in their money for five years, Cheltenham & Gloucester has launched an escalator bond. By the final year the Rising Income Account gives 10 per cent gross but the average annual rate over the term is 7.15 per cent. Minimum investment is £1,000 and penalty-free withdrawals are allowed after the first two years.

☐ The bureaucratic and impersonal procedures that have to be followed when burying our dead can turn the grief-stricken relative into a reluctant administrator. *After a Death* by Shelagh Clayton is a new guide to coping with bereavement. It covers topics such as how to arrange a funeral, the disposal of property, organising a grant of probate and looks at the financial aspects of handling an estate. Published by Robson Books, the guide costs £10.99.

☐ Now that the Abbey National share price has steadied, ex-National & Provincial members may want to sell their bonus shares. Waters Lunniss stockbrokers has extended its fixed dealing rate of £20 till the end of October. Up to three further family members, at the same address, can deal for just £2. Sign the back of your share certificate and send it, together with instructions to sell, to Waters Lunniss, 2 Redwell Street, Norwich NR2 4SN.

☐ Not to be outdone by Sainsbury and Tesco, Bhs has extended its loyalty card, the Choice card, to Mothercare for a limited period until Christmas. Bhs says its card gives bigger discounts than all the others currently on offer.

SARAH JONES

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80	½Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 228858	Instnt Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20Day(p)	£2,500	6.10	Yly
Nottingham BS 0155 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20Day(p)	£25,000	6.40	Yly
Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30Day(p)	£100	5.50	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Post.Dpt.Bond	31.12.98	£2,500	6.75	F/Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed Rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed Rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Birmingham Mid. BS 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	6.80	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.90%C	11.20%	Nil
RB of Scotland*01702 349393	Visa/Wrldwde(M)	0.94%N	12.90%N	£10
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.94%N	11.90%N	Nil

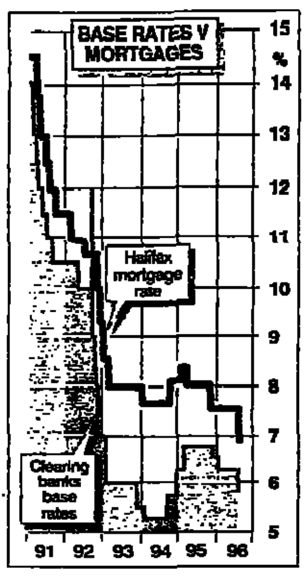
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

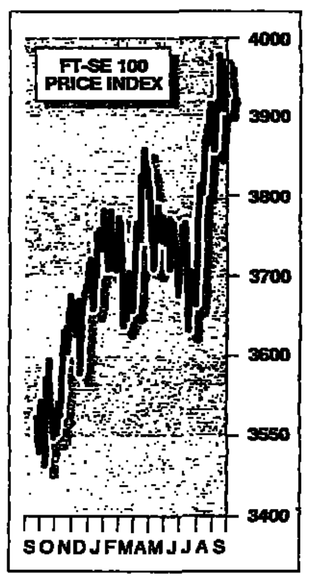
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.90%E	£112.86	£101.33
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	14.90%	£115.47	£102.59

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only, * w.e.f.1.10.96.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c'	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*ₐ	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ₑ	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bondₐ	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†ₛₛ	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds ₑ	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†ₛ	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 ₑ	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000ₛ	60day	0645 645000

*' first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 * Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ;Guaranteed when held for 5 years *0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ *£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings *Taxable but cred in full *£500-100,000 earn higher rates.* *Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£10,359	£11,382	£12,717
Canada Lf ....Level	£10,166	£11,332	£12,912
Sun Life ....Level	£10,255	£11,285	£12,693
Standrd Lf ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
Equitable ....Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£9,469	£10,308	£11,474
Sun Life ....Level	£9,526	£10,252	£11,330
Prudential ....Level	£9,504	£10,248	£11,340
Canada Lf ....Level	£9,340	£10,176	£11,403
Stalwart* ....Level	£9,192	£10,085	£10,952

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart* ....Level	£9,253	£10,008	£10,840
Generali ....Level	£9,234	£9,844	£10,689
Sun Life ....Level	£9,159	£9,720	£10,526
Prudential ....Level	£9,076	£9,660	£10,483
Canada Lf ....Level	£8,927	£9,583	£10,514

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lucy Dupuis

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 20, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.90
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.45
	3,000	ITTLond&Edin	5.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	3,000	ITTLond&Edin	6.10
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.35
	3,000	ITTLond&Edin	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.65
	3,000	ITTLond&Edin	6.90

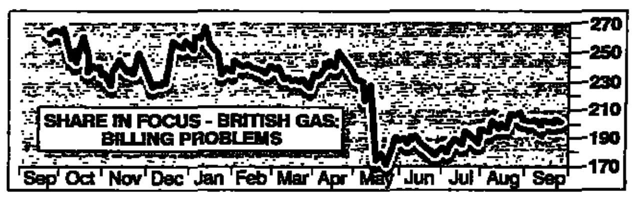
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	100.42	9.329	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	120.57	9.642	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	135.81	9.572	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	140.18	9.541	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	135.24	9.612	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	127.68	9.475	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	119.38	9.843	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	94.25	9.284	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	126.45	9.276	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	145.22	9.382	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	140.99	9.487	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	116.70	9.196	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	136.51	9.249	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	136.89	9.223	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	135.76	9.484	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-21/03)	8.5875%	107.63	100.00	1,000
First National	8.70625%	101.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leics 0181 742 0471	1.39	£200-300k	75	Disc of 5.6% until 1.8.97
Northern Rock 0800 591500	0.99	£100-150k	90	Disc of 6% to 1.10.97.
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.59	to £150k	95	5% disc - 6mth 1.25% - 18mth
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc-6mth 3% disc-6mth
Barclays 0800 000929	3.49	£15-500k	95	Disc by 3.5% for 12 months.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 12 months.
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 yr.
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.39	£75-125k	90	6.35% disc 6mth 2% disc-6mth
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25%disc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Barclays 0800 000929	3.49	£15-500k	75	3.50% discount for 12 months.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol&West 0800 608088	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mnth then 1% disc-6mth
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15K+	95	3.25% disc for 12 months.
Newbury 01635 43676	4.21	£15-150k	95	2.5% disc for 12 months.
Banks				
Bankofireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.25	£15K+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months.

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	530.40	561.30	- 1.70	...
UK Equity	697.40	738.00	- 4.10	...
Property	424.70	449.50	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	367.80	389.30	+ 1.60	...
Money	267.70	283.30	+ 0.10	...
International	434.70	460.10	- 1.60	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	196.00	206.40	+ 0.90	...
Ethical S4	161.50	170	- 0.30	..
International S4	224.70	236.30	+ 0.20	...
Protected Gth S4	123.30	129.80	...	0
Asian Pacific	208.70	219.70	+ 0.70	..
European S4	214.40	225.70	+ 0.50	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	392.20	412.90	+ 1.70	...
Equity Ser 4	270.60	284.90	- 0.40	...
Man Ser 4	784.70	826	.	0
Conv Ser 4	351.70	370.30	+ 0.40	...
Money Ser 4	351.10	369.60	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	388.10	408.60	+ 3.90	...
American Ser 4	656.60	691.30	+ 6.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	805.60	848.00	- 4.30	...
Indexed Int Ser 4	229.30	241.40	+ 1.30	..
Japan Ser 4	348.60	367	+ 1.70	..
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1953.60	2056.40	- 6.70	.
European Fd Acc	480.60	505.80	...	...
Fixed Int Acc	563.00	592.60	+ 4.50	...
Gtd Money Acc	358.10	376.90	+ 0.20	.
Intl Managed Acc	761.90	802.00	- 1.90	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	374.90	394.60	+ 1.60	...
Japan Fund	263.40	277.20	+ 2.10	...
N American Acc	432.90	455.70	- 1.20	...
Prop Fd Acc	470.40	495.10	- 0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1236.40	1301.40	- 0.70	.
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	401.30	422.50	- 0.30	..
Equity Acc	1723.70	1814.50	- 3.40	...
Property Acc	638.90	672.60	+ 0.10	..
Far East Acc	340.10	358.00	+ 0.50	.
Managed Capital	619.50	652.20	- 0.70	..
-do- Acc	1311.30	1380.40	- 1.50	
Overseas Acc	1174.90	1236.70	- 7.10	.
Gilt Edged Acc	545.10	573.80	+ 2.50	.
Amer Equity Acc	1080.30	1137.20	- 0.80	..
Amer Man Acc	454.10	477.00	- 0.50	..
Amer Prop Acc	120.10	126.50	- 0.20	...
Distribution Bonds	25.00	26.40	...	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	176.70	185.90	- 0.60	...
Balcd Ser 6	854.40	899.30	+ 3.20	...
Opportunity Ser 6	197.30	207.60	- 0.60	...
Distribution Ser 6	103.20	108.60	+ 0.30	7.00
UK Equities Ser 6	1222.00	1286.30	- 0.90	.
Higher Inc Ser 6	1229.90	1294.60	+ 0.90	..
North Amer Ser 6	629.90	663.00	+ 3.00	..
Far East Ser 6	604.10	635.80	+ 1.40	...
Europe Ser 6	477.50	502.60	- 2.30	..
Intnl Ser 6	693.20	729.70	+ 2.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	241.70	255.60	- 2.70	...
Euro Opportunity	273.80	289.70	+ 0.50	...
North Amer Opp	233.20	246.80	+ 6.20	...
Far East Opp	217.80	230.40	+ 1.20	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	175.60	184.90	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	206.40	218.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	226.60	239.80	+ 1.30	...
Cash	169.80	179.50	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	261.50	276.70	- 1.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	421.30	443.50	+ 1.20	...
UK Equity	731.00	769.50	- 3.90	...
Property	284.90	299.90	- 0.30	...
Money Market	269.00	283.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	329.20	346.60	+ 1.80	...
Japan	362.40	381.50	+ 3.70	...
North America	207.50	218.50	+ 4.50	...
International	404.10	425.40	+ 1.80	...
European	350.10	368.60	- 0.90	...
Far East	161.30	169.80	+ 1.10	...
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	382.80	...	...	...
Managed	395.30	416.20	- 1.20	...
Property	255.40	268.90	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	268.30	282.50	+ 1.00	...
Equity	464.10	488.60	- 2.50	...
Cash	229.50	241.60	+ 0.10	..
CLife Euro Mgd	456.80	480.90	+ 0.90	..
CLife Intl Fd	406.20	427.60	- 1.10	...
Managed Fund	851.20	896.00	- 2.60	
Property Fund	552.00	581.10	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1134.20	1193.90	- 8.70	
Gilt Edged Fd	684.10	720.10	+ 3.20	..
Deposit Fund	356.90	375.70	+ 1.60	...
Investment Fd	504.20	529.40	- 3.80	...
International	635.60	669.00	+ 1.90	.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.80	177.70	...	...
Managed Fund	743.70	782.90	- 1.60	...
Equity Fund	439.50	462.70	- 3.90	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566 Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	341.30	359.30	+ 0.10	
Ruby	204.40	215.20	+ 0.40	..
Emerald	157.90	166.20	+ 0.60	.
Equity	399.30	420.40	- 0.40	...
Property	237.90	250.50	+ 0.10	
Gilt & Fixed Int	227.30	239.30	+ 1.30	
Indexed Sec	183.70	192.40	+ 1.40	.
Cash	201.60	212.30	+ 0.10	.
Nth American	299.90	315.70	+ 3.00	.
Far East	352.60	371.20	...	.
International	282.40	297.30	+ 0.90	
Special Sits	443.30	466.70	- 2.90	...
Intl Income	351.10	369.60	- 0.70	
European	402.90	424.10	+ 1.50	.
Japanese	140.50	148.00	- 1.10	
SE Asia	407.70	429.20	+ 4.20	
With Profits Reg	184.30	194.10	+ 0.30	.
-do- Spec	184.30	194.10	+ 0.30	.
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	400.10	421.20	- 1.00	..
Equity	494.90	521.00	- 3.50	..
Property	220.60	232.30	+ 0.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	293.00	308.50	+ 2.00	...
Index Linked	195.60	206.00	- 2.30	..

[illegible]

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Inland Revenue's calculations did not add up

From Shaun Coles

Sir, I thought you would be interested in a recent saga with the Inland Revenue that leads me to question how often errors are made by the Revenue and which explains why self-assessment has been brought in: they employ staff who cannot calculate the correct income tax payable.

On April 1, 1996, I decided to make an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) to my personal pension plan before the year end. This was paid in as a cheque and, after some delays from the pension provider caused by confusion between my financal adviser and Scottish Amicable, I eventually received a letter confirming that £2,000 had been credited as a gross contribution.

My tax return for 1995-96 was then submitted with a covering letter explaining the circumstances of this gross contribution, and two weeks later I received my schedule E assessment showing a tax refund of £130.40. At first sight all seemed normal, although I was disappointed that the refund seemed small since I expected to get credit of about 40 per cent on the £2,000 contribution.

I then telephoned the inquiry line at the Inland Revenue office dealing with my return and was promptly told that the calculation was correct. I said I was neither an accountant nor a mathematician but it appeared to me that the tax credit had given relief at the 25 per cent band when I was, in fact, a 40 per cent higher rate payer.

I was assured that the correct tax had been calculated, and the person offered to write me a letter to explain how the calculation was done. I declined this offer, saying that I believed him and that I had to accept that they were right.

At this point I was unsure whether to let the matter lie or to pay for an accountant to check the figures. However, on sitting down myself with a piece of paper I became convinced that the calculation had not been carried out correctly and wrote to the Inland Revenue on August 31.

Surprisingly, I have proved correct and have now received an apologetic letter back from the Revenue, together with an additional refund cheque for £500.

However, no explanation was forthcoming as to the reason why the mistake was made and not corrected when I first inquired.

What chance is there of this type of mistake being made for other readers, and what would have happened if I had not been so persistent in pursuing this?

For that matter, what would have happened if, instead, the error had been made on my side to cause an underpayment of tax due?

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN COLES,
The Coach House,
Ellesfield,
Old Welwyn,
Hertfordshire.

For once, snail mail scores over new technology

From Ms M. Mendoza

Sir, My husband often forgets to pay his outstanding Visa balance before the due date, and therefore repeatedly incurs unnecessary charges.

I was interested, to learn therefore of the recently introduced personal computer home banking system available for our joint account with the Nationwide Building Society. This includes the facility for making bill payments such as those for credit cards.

My husband agreed that if he had this software on his computer he would be able to enter the amount due on the required payment date (about three weeks hence) as soon as he received the bill from Visa, thereby there being less of a likelihood of his leaving the envelope in a drawer and forgotten.

So, software installed and payment entered, we were shocked when he received his next Visa statement to see that it included yet another charge for late payment. Although the date of entry via the Nationwide Bill Payment software was the one recommended for payment through a bank (five days before the due date), the amount had not been credited to the Visa account until six days later.

So, he phoned up Nationwide and Visa to try to determine where the delay had occurred. Visa said that they credited the account as soon as they received payment, and in this case payment was late. However, they did kindly reimburse the account for the amount of interest that was charged.

The reply from the Nationwide was that payments using the Bill Payment method can take up to ten working days and this time should be allowed for when entering payment dates.

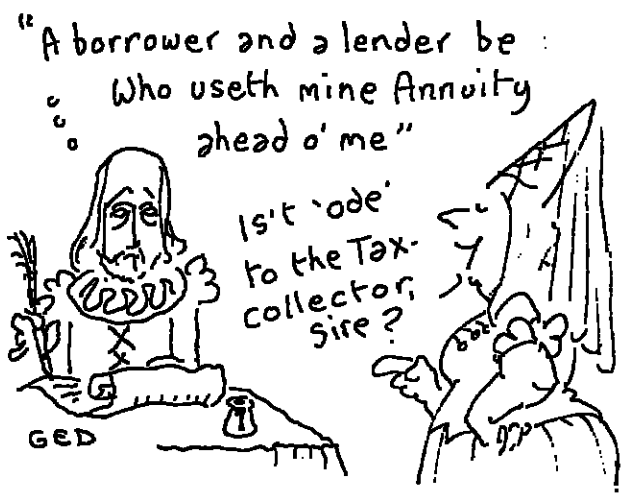
What I do not understand is why does an electronic transfer from one bank to another take up to ten days, considerably more time than it takes if you send off a cheque direct to the credit card company, which has to allow for the post and cheque clearing time? Where is the money during the ten days, and who is getting *the benefit of it I wonder?*

The following month we tried making the payment a day earlier, but this was not enough and another charge was incurred. Unfortunately, the payment cannot be scheduled for an even earlier date as this would fall before my husband's salary is paid into the account and there would not always be the funds available to make the payment (and then we would end up with interest charges from the Nationwide instead of Visa).

And so, we have decided to return to the snail-mail method. A separate piece of software on the computer is now programmed to remind us when to write the cheque, and to make the journey to the postbox. So much for new technology . . .
M. MENDOZA,
Magnolia, Dodds Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire.

■ Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.


"A borrower and a lender be
Who useth mine Annuity
ahead o' me"
Is't 'ode' to the Tax-collector, sire?
GED

Change that led to pension being taxed in advance each month

From Mr J. L. Botterill

Sir, I share the views expressed by Mr R. Kirtley (Weekend Money, September 14).

He points out that pension income is taxable on receipt. That situation was true until April 6 last but from then on a pension could be taxed in advance of being received.

In 1993, I took out an annuity for my wife and myself, to be paid annually on August 1 so that we could have a holiday. Then it was taxed on receipt but the £650 left was enough.

This year the rules have changed so that I have to pay 1/12th of the tax on the annuity each month, under PAYE, with the first tax being paid at the end of last April — so it is now a famine until the gross annuity arrives on August 1 each year!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BOTTERILL,
26 Acorn Groves,
Pershore,
Worcestershire.

No excuse in the computer age for these charges

From Mrs J Lee

Sir, I write in response to the recent letter, published on the Weekend Money pages of *The Times*, regarding the Halifax Building Society charging interest on the insurance of buildings.

On reading this letter, I thought I would get my daughter to check her account with the Woolwich Building Society.

Sure enough back came this reply:
"I would like to advise you that you are paying interest on your buildings insurance payments, as your renewal is due on the 29th of September, and the financial year of the society is the end of September."

In this day and age, with the widespread use of computers etc, there is really no excuse — especially with these large companies.

It would be a good idea to warn your readers.

Yours faithfully,

MRS J. LEE,
29 Lilford Road,
Billericay,
Essex.

Banks have changed their habits when it comes to clearing cheques

Punitive cost of currency transfers

From Mr P. Ward

Sir, Roll on the single European currency. I have just had to make three payments to Germany of DM475 (£203.94), DM 186.30 and DM114. The bank charges here and in Germany were £25.86, £19.43 and £25.86 respectively which I feel are outrageous.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WARD,
231 Royal College Street,
London NW19LT.

Caution needed to check cheques

From Dr John Sutton

Sirs, Hugh Davies (Weekend Money, Sept 21) found that a national magazine believed a photocopy of a cheque proved its receipt. What he should have done was upbraid them for not acknowledging his generous donation of a million pounds — and send a photocopy to "prove" that they must have received it!

In the days when banks returned cleared cheques it was sometimes useful to send a photocopy to establish that the cheque had been presented for payment at a particular date.

Yours faithfully,
DR JOHN SUTTON,
16A Overland Road,
Mumbles,
Swansea SA3 4LP.

Get covered is first lesson for students

As university students prepare to start the new academic year, insurance may not be the first thing on their minds. But thefts are common in halls, flats and lodgings, making insurance another expense for the hard-pressed student.

However, many parents may not realise that their contents cover extends outside the home, protecting the property of student sons and daughters. The Prudential, for example, allows property to be "temporarily removed", which includes three terms of ten weeks each, provided there is adequate security for the goods. The company does, however, ask for an additional premium for articles that are effectively in transit, such as a pedal cycle. Special student policies are offered by General Accident. Gouda which trades as Endsleigh, Guardian, Norwich Union and Sun Alliance. These companies also underwrite student policies offered by the banks. The amount you pay for cover will be based on the location of your place of learning. Midland, whose policies are underwritten by Sun Alliance charges £80 a year to cover £2,000 worth of belongings in London and £37 in Cardiff.

STUDENT FINANCE

Before taking out a policy, you should check on the following:

☐ What cover is already available under the family's insurance policy?

☐ Is the excess on the policy (the first part of any claim that must be met by the policyholder) reasonable?

☐ Are original receipts required to prove ownership, meaning that gifts from grandparents may not be insured?

☐ Will jewellery and computer equipment be covered?

Students should compile a good inventory of their belongings, including serial numbers of any electronic equipment. You can ask the police to postcode articles.

Check articles that may not be included. Some policies exclude glasses, contact lenses and sports equipment when not in use.

Place jewellery with the local bank (the service should be free) and buy a good lock for a cycle. Most insurers charge disproportionately high premiums for bikes. Endsleigh, for example, may charge £107.

Many students may appreciate a legal helpline. A 24-hour service is complimentary with several, such as Guardian.

One important area often overlooked is accidental damage or loss to college or landlord's property. Sun Alliance covers up to £1,000.

Check the excess as otherwise it may not be worth claiming for low-value items. Wellington Personal Finance, for example, normally deducts the first £500 but has no such limit for jewellery or silver. Finally, keep a record of purchases once insurance has been taken out.

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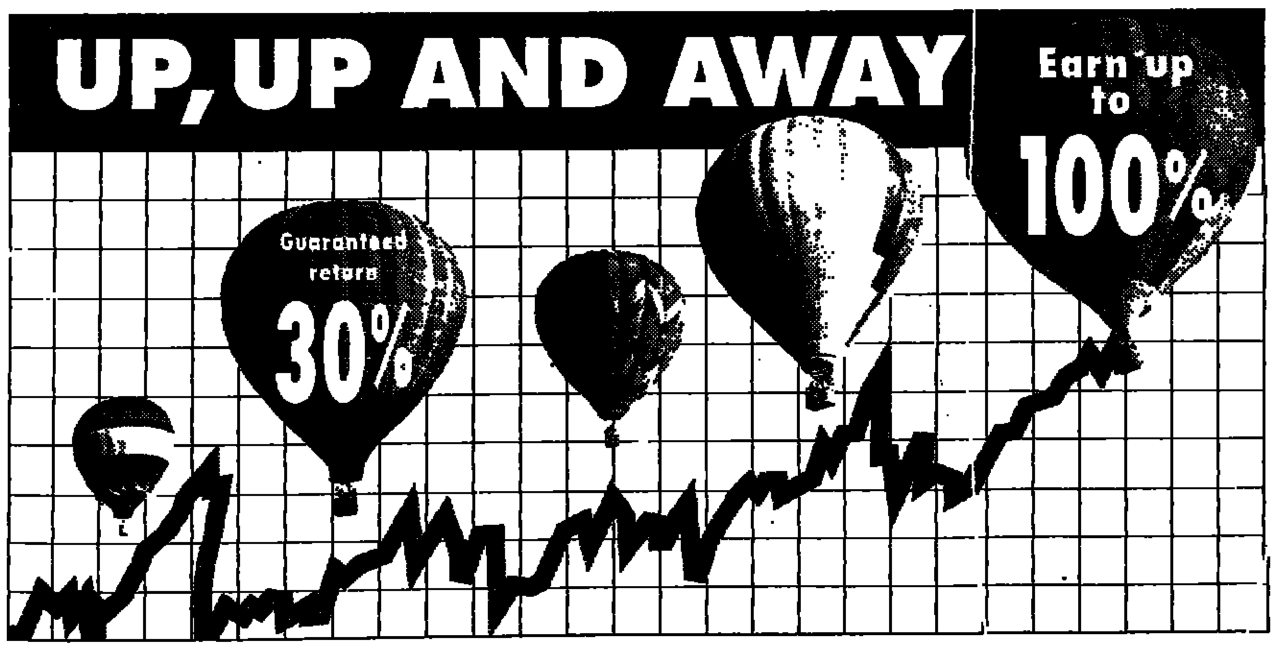

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The account is only available direct by post and is operated by First National Building Society, one of the longest established building societies in Ireland or the UK (founded in 1861) with assets under management in excess of £3.9 billion.

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TB

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All lending is subject to appraisal by the Bank of the applicant's financial status and valuation of the property. Full details and a written consumer credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct, PO Box 12304, Edinburgh EH12 9DX. The Bank requires security over the property, the assignation of an acceptable life assurance policy and house building insurance for reinstatement value. To apply for a loan or mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Bank of Scotland is a Representative only of STANDARD LIFE, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Typical example: based on 90% loan to value: Repayment Mortgage: Monthly repayments of capital and interest for mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years. Assuming the rate at Mortgages Direct Personal Choice Rate (Variable) of 6.99% (7.3% APR) 300 net payments of £265.44 total net amount payable £79,632.
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Groland Amer	225.50	238.70	+ 0.30	0.14
Groland Equity	283.10	301.00	- 3.30	1.81
Groland Euro	269.80	285.50†	- 0.70	0.57
Groland Expl Bd	133.30	138.10†	+ 1.00	2.55
Groland Gilt	75.67	78.17†	+ 0.04	6.14
Groland Japan	170.80	180.80	+ 1.70	.

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc	677.80	721.10†	- 1.90	2.58
General Inc	565.70	601.90†	- 1.60	2.58
UK Growth Acc	462.70	492.30	- 1.60	2.71
UK Growth Inc	303.90	323.50	- 1.00	2.71
Higher Inc Acc	805.20	856.60	- 2.60	4.20
Higher Inc Inc	439.20	467.30	- 1.40	4.20
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	213.10	225.10†	+ 1.40	5.77
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.32	98.56†	+ 0.58	5.77
Nth America	386.00	410.70	+ 2.10	
Europe	362.80	386.00†	+ 2.00	0.38
Brit Excell	97.31	97.14	- 0.84	2.90
Brit Fxdints Acc	115.40	122.80†	- 0.10	4.81
Brit Fxdints Inc	77.20	82.13†	- 0.05	4.81
Global Opps	106.30	113.10		
Balanced Acc	63.98	68.07	.	2.75
Balanced Inc	60.52	64.39	- 0.01	2.75
Japan Acc	46.21	49.16†	+ 0.21	
Pac Basin Acc	407.20	433.20	+ 1.00	0.90

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	130.60	138.70†	+ 1.40	7.04
High Inc Equity	184.00	195.80	- 1.60	4.38
Worldwide Bond	285.00	302.30†	+ 0.30	4.87
American Growth	383.90	410.70	+ 4.80	0.30
Asian Pacific	328.20	351.00	+ 0.40	0.04
Assets & Earnings	312.80	334.30	- 1.00	2.70
Euro Capital Acc	188.30	201.40	+ 0.80	0.79
Extra Inc	43.58	46.36†	+ 0.04	7.73
General	285.40	303.80†	- 1.10	2.88
Global Opps	69.94	74.40	+ 0.35	0.54
Japan	118.70	127.08	+ 0.80	.
Managed Inc	48.31	51.39†	- 0.05	4.67
Mastertrust	171.30	183.10	+ 0.40	1.00
US Emerging Cos	224.30	238.50	+ 3.10	.
Ethical	82.44	87.70	- 0.19	2.43
International	140.50	149.50	+ 0.70	0.29
Dividend & Growth	68.23	72.59	- 0.57	4.23
Global Grth & Sec	73.48	78.50	+ 0.09	2.33
Latin America	65.84	70.04	- 0.64	
Capital Reserve	145.50	145.60	+ 0.30	4.61

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2366.00	2461.00	+ 1.00	

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	61.71	64.07	+ 0.46	0.15
Emerging Mkts	74.30	78.44	- 0.23	0.04
European	151.40	157.40	- 1.10	
Exempt	1105.00	1175.00	- 13.00	1.58
Extra Income #	46.02	49.30†	- 0.15	6.60
Far East Emg Eco	135.20	142.00	+ 0.70	0.44
Fixed Interest #	25.56	26.58†	+ 0.02	8.94
Fixed Inv Tst	153.80	161.30	+ 0.80	9.52
Japan	181.90	190.10†	+ 0.80	.
Latin American	60.99	63.56†	- 1.20	0.76
Pacific	87.48	91.86	+ 0.84	0.28
Property Share	71.56	75.12	- 0.37	2.34
UK Emerging Cos	71.87	77.68	- 0.75	1.24
UK Growth	54.21	57.26	- 0.17	2.05
Alter World Port #	83.37	84.93	+ 0.05	3.40
Ethical	78.46	81.59	- 0.15	2.16

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	102.60	109.47	+ 0.10	2.34
American Portfolio	124.24	131.99	- 0.27	0.86
European Portfolio	134.88	143.55	- 0.66	0.62
High Income	52.17	52.29†	+ 0.41	7.12
Japanese Portfolio	69.21	73.90	+ 0.64	
Pacific Portfolio	158.79	170.75	+ 1.36	1.41
UK Equity	99.06	105.86	- 0.13	3.02
UK Equity & Bd	58.33	61.81	+ 0.16	6.19

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	767.61	779.21	- 7.45	4.29
Fxd Int Sec	154.32	154.94	- 0.68	9.23

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	770.44	782.08	+ 0.53	4.28
Investment Acc	£35.12	£35.66	+ 2.34	
Fixed Int Inc	127.87	128.39	+ 0.15	9.03
Fixed Int Acc	227.75	228.67	+ 0.22	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	88.92	93.98	+ 0.38	3.06
Beck Bio-Tech	45.62	48.68	+ 0.69	
Acorn Ethical Tst	189.41	198.90	+ 1.30	0.43
City Fin Assets	84.45	88.68	- 0.61	1.51
City Fin America	110.50	118.04	- 2.05	
City Fin Intl	91.60	96.19	- 0.57	0.45
City Fin Japan	148.11	155.53	+ 0.89	
Frms Hse Cap	327.72	348.64	- 1.12	2.43
Frmy Hse Inc	205.34	218.45	- 0.70	3.46
Stockley Wrld Grth	144.80	153.49†	- 0.49	
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	55.81	58.61	- 0.27	3.29
Shaw Utilities	57.53	58.55	- 0.46	6.21

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	57.78	61.31†	- 0.39	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	82.82	88.11	+ 0.38	. .
Dragon Growth	72.86	77.92	- 0.24	0.44
Equity High Inc	89.24	95.59†	- 0.73	4.11
-do- Accum	129.17	138.36	- 1.06	4.11
Extra Income Inc	26.60	28.01	+ 0.15	7.45
Extra Income Acc	28.84	30.37	+ 0.16	7.45
European Gwth	64.00	67.90	+ 0.05	0.91
Evergreen	32.09	34.32	- 0.19	
General Equity	104.74	111.13	- 0.50	2.92
Japan Growth	50.13	53.33	+ 0.37	
Pedigree Gwth	65.15	69.31	- 0.24	2.23
Ped Sm Cos Inc	38.68	41.15	- 0.44	1.45
-do- Accum	40.97	43.59	- 0.47	1.45
Retirement Inc #	27.99	29.78	- 0.21	5.77
Special Sits	47.55	50.58	- 0.16	2.35
UK & Overseas	60.25	63.93	.	0.69

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	69.69	72.59†	- 0.14	3.95
Capital	84.02	87.52†	- 0.52	2.24
High Income	51.60	53.75†	+ 0.43	7.05
Top 50	56.58	58.93†	- 0.43	2.07

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	197.80	206.04	- 2.13	4.46
Long Gilt	43.42	45.20	+ 0.67	6.23
Monthly Inc Plus	49.45	51.51	+ 0.31	6.70
Preference Share	47.36	49.33	+ 0.33	7.90

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Growth	81.90	87.13	+ 1.09	.
-do- Accum	81.90	87.13	+ 1.09	.
Amer Smllr Cos	720.40	770.50†	+ 10.80	...
-do- Accum	735.90	787.10†	+ 10.80	
Capital Tst	398.30	421.60†	- 1.20	1.50
-do- Accum	582.20	619.40†	- 1.70	1.50
Conti Smllr Cos	61.83	65.82	- 0.19	1.09
-do- Accum	65.78	70.14	- 0.20	1.09
Convertible	143.70	152.80	- 0.80	5.60
-do- Accum	311.10	331.00	- 1.30	5.60
Emerging Markets	67.65	72.38	- 0.98	0.30
-do- Accum	67.86	72.52	- 0.98	0.30
European	151.90	161.00	- 0.40	0.50
-do- Accum	161.00	170.60	- 0.40	0.50
Extra Income	390.60	415.50	+ 1.00	4.45
-do- Accum	622.00	661.70	+ 1.60	4.45
Financial	176.00	187.20	+ 2.30	0.46
-do- Accum	187.00	198.90	+ 2.40	0.46
Gilt Trust	65.12	67.14	+ 0.26	6.79
-do- Accum	98.62	101.60	+ 0.30	6.79
Health Fund Inc	266.20	284.40	+ 1.30	
-do- Accum	266.20	284.40	+ 1.30	
Income & Growth	232.70	247.60	+ 0.90	3.61
-do- Accum	368.60	392.10	+ 1.20	3.61
Intl Growth	446.20	475.20	+ 1.20	.
-do- Accum	495.50	527.70	+ 1.40	.
Japan & Gen	171.40	182.10	- 0.40	
-do- Accum	173.10	184.00	- 0.30	..
Monthly Inc #	198.90	211.60†	+ 2.60	4.38
Managed Port Inc	123.10	129.60	..	1.38
-do- Accum	133.90	140.90		1.38
Charity Income #	57.40	61.56†	- 0.04	4.91
-do- Accum #	65.94	70.74†	- 0.06	4.91
Recovery	352.70	377.20	- 5.40	.
-do- Accum	416.40	445.30	- 6.40	..
UK Growth	66.61	70.85	- 0.29	2.76
-do- Accum	72.23	76.84	- 0.31	2.76

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FP American	61.98	66.07	- 0.31	0.50
FP Am Smllr Cos	211.80	226.00	- 2.30	.
FP Asian Growth	283.60	302.50	- 1.80	.
FP Australian	424.50	452.80†	+ 6.10	
FP Equity Dist	460.20	490.80	- 3.20	2.44
-do- Accum	£10.15	£10.82	- 7.00	2.44
FP Euro Gth	289.50	308.70	+ 0.70	..
-do- Accum	316.50	337.60	+ 0.70	..
FP Intl Bond	59.87	63.35†	+ 0.36	4.63
FP Intl Gth Dist	38.81	41.39	- 0.06	0.14
-do- Accum	56.66	60.43	- 0.08	0.14
FP Pac Basin Acc	223.60	238.50	+ 2.60	.
FP Income #	59.73	63.71	- 0.59	5.07
-do- Accum #	208.70	222.60	- 2.00	5.07
FP Jap Smllr Cos	303.10	323.30	- 1.50	
FP Monthly Dist #	75.84	80.89†	- 0.20	5.28
FP Stg Deposit	100.90	100.90	.	5.05
FP Tokyo	63.28	66.83†	+ 0.86	
FP UK Focus	42.98	45.84	- 0.38	2.07
FP UK Growth	200.30	213.50	- 1.60	2.20
-do- Accum	403.50	430.40	- 3.30	2.20
Stewardship Dist	431.60	460.30	- 4.30	1.39
-do- Accum	541.10	577.10	- 5.40	1.39
Stwrdshp Inc Dist #	81.61	87.05†	- 0.05	4.62
-do- Accum #	111.60	119.00		4.62
N Am Stshp Dist	128.80	137.30	+ 1.30	0.24
-do- Accum	138.40	147.60	+ 1.50	0.24

FP Managed Portfolio Service

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Capital Grth Acc	129.50	137.70	- 0.20	1.55
Open Cap Gth Acc	132.50	140.90	- 0.50	0.19
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	119.90	127.50†	- 0.20	3.39
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	127.10	135.20	- 0.10	3.39
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	121.50	129.20†	- 0.59	3.85
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	129.80	138.00	- 0.50	3.85

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sector Value Gwth	165.80	171.60	- 0.80	2.14
Hy 5 Europe	101.20	106.10	- 0.50	2.77
Sister Gwth	164.70	173.80	- 1.10	0.66

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
World Health	213.80	227.40	+ 7.40	.
Income #	213.14	226.74	- 0.07	4.28
UK Growth	85.40	90.85	- 0.33	1.80
Intl Growth	87.90	93.50	- 0.18	0.45
Ecology	105.07	111.77	- 0.96	0.87
European	203.10	216.06	+ 0.24	0.57
Far Eastern	314.50	334.50	+ 2.70	..
UK Special Sits	51.75	55.20	+ 0.17	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	27.51	29.26†	- 0.08	1.97
UK Growth	466.91	496.71	- 2.79	2.47
-do- Accum	633.56	673.99	- 3.78	2.47

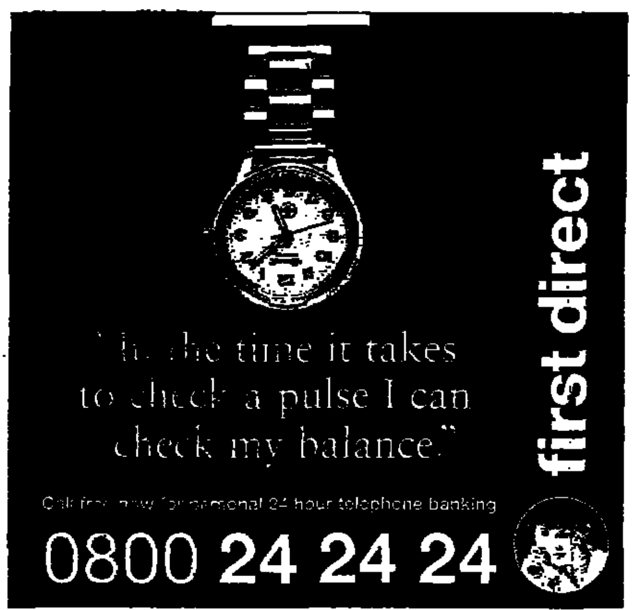
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1480.00	1502.60	- 4.50	2.99
Income #	1037.60	1053.90	..	4.40

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Maldon General	165.80	170.70†	- 0.20	4.69

For Manulife see Canada Life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Dealers: 0171 956 7354
Income Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bond Income	100.40	103.70†	+ 0.50	7.18
Gilt Yield	118.70	125.20†	+ 1.00	6.77
Global Income	237.50	252.70†	+ 0.70	3.53
High Yield	155.50	165.40	.	5.42
-do- Accum	506.20	538.90	+ 0.10	5.42
Smllr Cos Div	82.50	86.49†	- 0.77	3.32

Capital Growth Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Smllr Cos	162.80	173.20	+ 2.30	.
Asian Growth	336.90	358.40	1.40	0.23

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Ptflo	180.00	185.50	- 0.20	2.52
-do- Accum	213.60	220.20	- 0.38	2.52
UK Sel Ptflo	159.00	163.90	- 0.60	2.53
-do- Accum	191.70	197.60	- 0.60	2.53
UK 100 Cos	116.40	116.40†	- 0.20	2.85
-do- Accum	118.50	118.50†	- 0.30	2.85

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	72.87	77.52	+ 0.22	3.70

مكتب الاصل

Equities end week on firm note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	**Allied Domecq**	453	+ 3	6.5	17.2
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	488½	+ 2½	3.4	16.4
131	94	Burn Stewart	94	...	6.6	20.3
775	615	Glenmorangie A	775	.	1.9	19.9
481½	411	**Grand Met**	475½	- ½	4.0	20.2
493	435	**Guinness**	454½	+ 6	4.2	14.0
378	315	Highland Dist	347½		2.9	16.2
383	277½	Matthew Clark†	318½	+ 12	9.4	15.2
141	93	Marydon Wt	119½		4.7	10.9
2612½	1606¼	SA Breweries	1650		2.1	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3716½	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3506¼	- 9½	3.8	12.6
663	528	**Abbey Natl**	594	- 1½	4.8	11.0
395	315	Allied Irish	380½	.	4.7	10.9
362½	285	Aus New Z	362½	..	5.1	8.9
5443¾	3843¾	Bank America†	5184¾			
316	227½	**Bank Scotland**	246½	- ½	3.5	10.4
955½	693	**Barclays**†	926	- 2	9.8	10.1
505	413	Bk of Ireland†	505		3.7	11.5
482	379	Cater Allen	390	- 1	9.6	11.6
5668¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5662½		...	...
382	318	Close Bros	328½		3.9	13.0
£157½	£131½	Commerzbk	£144¾	- 37½	3.5	
1350	1068¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y†	1081¼	- 16¼	0.5	..
3412½	2950	Deutsche Bk	3021½	- 40½	2.5	
806¼	593¾	Espirito Santo	800	.	4.4	10.8
1507	1177¾	Fuji Bank Y	1252¾	+ 7	0.4	
472	314	Girard Nat	314	- 11	8.2	8.9
267½	196	Hambros	264		3.6	.
1223	831	**HSBC**†	1222½	+ 20	3.9	11.6
1195½	930	HSBC HK†	1193	+ 17½	4.0	11.3
457½	385	Irish Perm†	457½		3.1	12.5
177	143	King Shaxson	162½	- 1	6.9	14.1
458	405	Leopold J	455		5.4	16.5
401	294½	**Lloyds TSB**†	376½	+ 1	4.0	15.9
653	566	Nat Aust Bk	624¼	- 1	7.0	8.0
711	605½	**Nat West**†	678	- 1	4.9	8.7
66	49½	Rea Brothers†	55		2.3	21.6
596	464	**Ryl Bk Scot**	491½	- 2	4.3	10.9
1462½	1185	**Schroders**†	1382½	- 2½	1.6	15.7
1137½	890	Schroders N/V†	1097½		2.0	12.5
134	99½	Singer & Friedl	121½	- ½	4.4	8.9
729½	547	**Stand Chart**†	689	- 1	2.2	13.4
115½	85½	Union	109½	- 3	3.4	11.8
£174½	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	
329½	264	Westpac	329	+ 2½	4.3	10.1
360	268	Whitbread†	345	..	4.5	17.3

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
620	426	Brammer†	617½	.	3.0	17.7
26½	18	Bridgend Gp	25	+ ½	1.0	.
113	76	Brit Fittings	97½		4.9	11.0
290	245	Caffyns	285		5.0	22.6
160	105	Caverdale†	128½	- 1	3.4	8.3
107½	78	Charles Sidney	85½		5.6	12.1
79	54½	Cook (DC)†	65½	- 1½	4.0	8.0
404¾	276¾	Cowie	375	- 5½	3.6	12.9
175	119½	Dag Motors	120	...	8.2	8.3
163	125¾	Denmans El	142½		2.3	14.3
434	328	Diploma	360	+ 8½	5.0	12.7
407	328	Electrocomponents	385	+ 1½	2.7	24.7
314	172	Eurotis Elect	193½	+ 1	3.1	18.7
134½	66	Eurodollar	134½		3.8	20.1
105	76	European Mtr†	97½	- ½	6.7	11.0
375	282	Evans Halshaw†	283½		7.3	11.1
67	48	File Indmrt	49½		8.3	7.4
338	248	Flextel Grp†	314½		2.5	18.1
31¼	16½	Gardiner†	31	.	3.5	12.4
81	33½	Glencheraton	67	..	2.0	19.8
91	70½	Gowrings†	76½	. .	4.5	13.0
101	87	Hamlet†	91	. .	8.2	.
292	216	Harris (Philip)	259½		3.9	19.5
295½	200½	Headlam	281½	.	2.3	23.2
200	132	Holders Tech	176½		4.2	18.6
192½	153	ISA Intl†	190	- ½	1.7	17.3
316	231	Inchcape	282½	- 3	3.7	23.8
78	33	Jacks (Wm)#	74½	.	2.9	28.8
260	169	Kwik-Fit	233½	.	2.8	18.6
380	299	Lex Service	365½	- 1	5.3	11.7
155	115	Lookers†	117½		8.5	6.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13¾	+ ½	7.2	12.3
9¾	6¼	Middlesex©	7	.	1.4	10.7
47	31	Midstates†	40½	...	0.7	
565	440	Norbain†	465	.	2.0	13.6
349	230	Northamber†	285½	+ 2½	1.0	10.6
162	108	PCT©	125		7.7	11.7
341	272	Pendragon†	319½	.	3.6	15.5
211	145	Perry Gp	182½	.	5.8	9.1
745	602	Premier Farnell	666	+ 2	2.0	17.8
190	135	Quicks Group†	160½		5.1	12.0
315	185	REA†	232½	..	2.2	29.5
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	25½	Ronson▼	26½		7.1	9.1
4½	2	Ross Gp	3¼		.	
58	46½	SEP Indl†	51½	.	4.0	11.1
185	98	Saltire	105	- 1	1.2	34.0
392½	246	Time Products	382½		3.3	
41½	30	Torex Hire	40½	- ½	4.3	13.7
282½	123	UNIECO	253½	+ 10	2.1	22.3
332½	263¾	Vardy (Reg)†	295½	- 4	2.7	13.9
463	325	Wholesale Fittgs	451	.	3.6	19.2
59	25¼	Wilshaw†	38½		2.9	9.8
149¾	75¼	Wyatt†	137½		2.0	19.5
133	104	Young (H)	130½	+ ½	3.8	12.0

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103¼	100¾	Conv 10% 1996	100⅛	...	9.96	5.71
101⅞	100⅞	Treas 7% 1997	100⅞	.	6.93	5.88
107⅞	100½	Treas 13¼% 1997	102⅞	.	12.94	5.80
107⅝	101½	Exch 10½% 1997	101⅞	.	10.31	5.79
107	102	Treas 8¾% 1997	102⅜	- ⅛	8.54	5.91
114	102⅞	Exch 15% 1997	109⅛	- ⅛	13.74	5.98
105⅛	103⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	104⅝		9.34	6.11
102⅝	100¾	Treas 7¼% 1998	101⅜	+ ⅛	7.15	6.20
104⅛	99⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	.	6.75	5.91
116⅞	111¼	Treas 14% 1998-01	111⅞	- ⅛	12.52	6.26
122⅝	116⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	116⅞xd		13.27	6.36
114⅝	110⅞	Exch 12% 1998	110⅞	+ ⅛	10.83	6.44
109⅞	105⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	106⅞	+ ⅛	8.94	6.48
116⅞	110⅞	Exch 12¼% 1999	112⅞	+ ⅛	10.86	6.56
112⅞	106⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	109⅞	+ ⅛	9.61	6.59
99⅞	96	Treas 6% 1999	98⅛	+ ⅛	6.10	6.58
112⅞	108⅞	Conv 10¼% 1999	109⅞		9.35	6.75
109⅞	104⅞	Conv 9% 2000	106⅞	+ ⅛	8.44	6.80
105⅞	101⅞	Treas 8% 2000	103⅞	- ⅛	7.72	6.92
124⅞	119⅞	Treas 13% 2000	119⅞	+ ⅛	10.84	6.91
114	109⅛	Treas 10% 2001	110⅞	+ ⅛	9.01	7.03

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101⅞	96½	Treas 7% 2001	99⅞	+ ⅛	7.03	7.09
114½	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅞	+ ⅛	8.73	7.27
105⅞	99⅞	Treas 8% 2003	103½	+ ⅛	7.72	7.29
117⅞	39	Treas 10% 2003	114⅛	+ ⅛	8.77	7.37
121⅞	114⅞	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116⅞	+ ⅛	9.89	7.16
83⅞	78⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82⅞	+ ⅛	4.22	6.36
114⅞	107⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	111⅞	+ ⅛	8.51	7.53
95⅞	91⅞	Treas 6¾% 2004	95⅞	+ ⅛	7.08	7.50
108⅞	101⅞	Treas 8½% 2005	105⅞	+ ⅛	8.04	7.60
114⅞	108⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	111⅞	+ ⅛	8.50	7.59

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
131⅜	123⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127⅞	+ ⅛	9.79	7.42
101⅞	94⅞	Treas 7½% 2006	98⅛	+ ⅛	.	7.66
103⅛	96⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	100⅛	+ ⅛	7.73	7.70
104⅞	97⅜	Treas 8% 2002-06	100⅞xd	...	7.95	7.86
125⅞	118⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121⅞	+ ⅛	9.67	7.41
108⅞	101⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	105⅛	+ ⅛	8.07	7.74
138⅞	130⅞	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134⅞	.	10.07	7.48
112⅞	105	Treas 9% 2008	109⅞	+ ⅛	8.23	7.78
104⅛	96⅞	Treas 8% 2009	101⅞	+ ⅛	7.86	7.84

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
88⅞	81⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	84⅞	..	7.37	7.94
112⅞	104⅜	Conv 9% 2011	109⅛	+ ⅛	8.24	7.92
113⅞	104⅞	Treas 9% 2012	109⅞	+ ⅛	8.24	7.96
82⅛	75⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	80⅛	+ ⅛	6.86	7.73
103⅞	95⅛	Treas 8% 2013	99⅞xd	+ ⅛	8.00	8.00
101⅞	93⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	98	+ ⅛	7.91	8.03
103⅛	95⅞	Treas 8% 2015	100⅞	+ ⅛		8.00
111⅛	102⅛	Treas 8¾% 2017	106⅞	+ ⅛	8.18	8.04
141⅜	130⅞	Exch 12% 2013-17	136⅞	+ ⅛	8.79	7.98
100⅞	95⅞	Tr 8% 2021	99⅛	+ ⅛	30.04	8.00

UNDATED

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
45½	41⅛	War Ln 3½%	43⅞	+ ⅛	7.97	..
32⅞	29½	Treas 2½%	31	- ⅛	8.06	...
50⅞	46⅛	Consols 4%	49⅞	+ ⅛	8.13	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114⅞	111⅞	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113⅞	..	0.41	2.15
183⅞	176½	Treas IL 2½% 2001	183⅞	+ ⅛	2.72	3.28
178⅞	171⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	178⅞	+ ⅛	3.00	3.43
117⅞	112⅞	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	117⅞	+ ⅛	3.05	3.43
189⅞	179⅞	Treas IL 2% 2006	189⅞	+ ⅛	3.18	3.47
168⅞	161⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2009	168⅞	+ ⅛	3.31	3.56
174⅞	166⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	174⅞	+ ⅛	3.38	3.60
143⅞	136⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	143⅞	+ ⅛	3.42	3.62
152⅞	145⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	152⅞	+ ⅛	3.49	3.66
147⅞	138⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	147⅞	+ ⅛	3.53	3.68
122	115⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	121⅞	+ ⅛	3.52	3.66
120⅛	113⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119⅞	+ ⅛	3.53	3.67

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
62½	18	Abacus Recruit	58½			
213	95	Cafe Inns	145		2.1	12.0
127½	58	County Gdns	115		1.5	11.8
1700	860	Dawson Hldgs	1600	+ 5	2.5	34.1
188	31	Freecnest#	44½	..	.	19.0
37¼	14	Freepages	34¼	+ ½	.	
117	92	Megalomedia	103½			
475	22½	Memory Corp	46½	+ 9		
162	85¼	Old English Pub	162	+ 2½	0.8	79.8
445	292½	Pet City	312½	+ 2½		
585	524	Southern News	535		4.2	
79½	50	Southern Vectis†	75½		3.1	17.5
330	122	Surrey Fr Invest	329	.	0.9	
79½	46	Trocadero	59			

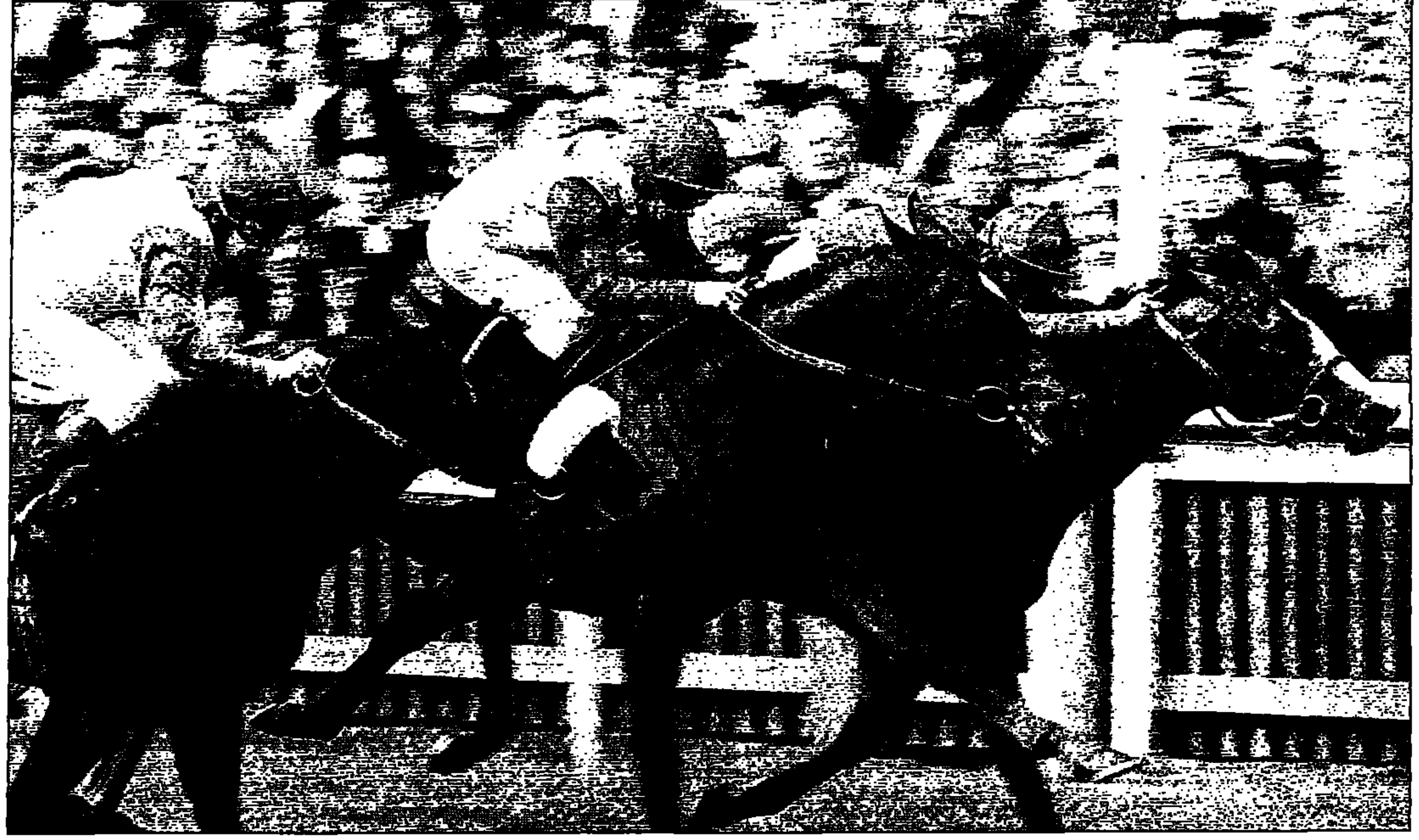
Source: FT Information

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures on report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

RACING: THE 2,000 GUINEAS WINNER CAN UNDERLINE HIS QUALITY IN A RACE FULL OF TALKING POINTS

Mark Of Esteem to grasp Ascot prize

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT



ED BYRNE

Mark Of Esteem, far right, takes the 2,000 Guineas from Even Top, left, and Bijou D'Inde. He seeks another big race win at Ascot today

DICK FRANCIS would be hard pressed to better the plot which unfolds at Ascot this afternoon. On the anniversary of the public clash between Sheikh Mohammed and Henry Cecil, which signalled the acrimonious split between the world's biggest racehorse owner and Britain's ten-times champion trainer, the pair lock horns again in the race of the year — and the result is vital to both parties.

If Bosra Sham, the 1,000 Guineas winner, can overcome a 146-day absence since her Newmarket classic success and win the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, the first prize will all but guarantee Cecil his eleventh trainers' championship, a title he is supremely keen to win.

However, should Charnwood Forest or Mark Of Esteem oblige for the Sheikh's Godolphin operation, then Cecil's £100,000 lead at the top of the trainers' table would be wiped out and Saeed bin Suroor would become favourite to thwart Cecil and land the title for the second successive season. To add spice to an already potent mix, both of Sheikh Mohammed's horses were trained by Cecil before being switched to Godolphin.

Aside from determining the trainer's title, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes will decide who is Europe's champion miler. One of the strongest fields in the 41-year history of the race has been assembled. All except Charnwood Forest have won a group one race, and he is no slouch, having triumphed by four lengths in the group two Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Although Ascot has missed much of the rain in recent days, the going was described as "autumnal good to firm" by Nick Cheyne, the clerk of the course yesterday. Unless there is a dramatic change in tactics, it is fairly easy to predict the way the race will develop.

The front-running Bijou D'Inde is likely to lead his six rivals into the short home straight, with Jason Weaver keeping something in reserve, before trying to withstand the onslaught from behind. So far, so good. But who will win?

Ashkalani will be fancied by many to reverse St James's Palace Stakes form with Bijou D'Inde as Mick Kinane admitted afterwards that he had hit the front too soon on the eventual runner-up. However, there is a suspicion that the winner of the French 2,000 Guineas and a slowly run Prix du Moulin is not so effective in an end-to-end gallop over a mile. Five winners of the French 2,000 Guineas have run in this race; all were beaten. Furthermore, eight of the past ten Prix du Moulin winners have contested the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. All, including Miesque and Ridgewood Pearl, were vanquished.

Mark Of Esteem, who beat Bijou D'Inde when winning the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, disappointed in the St James's Palace Stakes on fast ground after an interrupted preparation. However, he showed that run could be safely ignored when recording the best performance by a miler this season to defy a 6lb group one penalty and land the all-aged Celebration Mile at Goodwood, where he showed a sparkling turn of foot. A strict interpretation of that form suggests he has the beating of First Island, the Sussex Stakes winner, and Charnwood Forest.

"The horse is absolutely flying, doing everything right and goes into the race with a major chance," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "Everything since Goodwood has gone perfectly with him and he is ready to run the race of his life. He is best on good ground and can tolerate good to firm, but as he showed at Ascot he does not let himself down on firm or fast ground."

The going will be even more of a worry to Bosra Sham, who would prefer some give. Her recent homework has delighted Newmarket gallop watchers but she faces a tough task after such a long lay-off and no 1,000 Guineas winner has triumphed in this race.

In a race which should live up to its billing, I expect **Mark Of Esteem** to prove too strong for First Island.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MARK OF ESTEEM
(3.20 Ascot)
Next best: River Usk
(3.45 Haydock Park)
Nap: REAMS OF VERSE
(3.50 Ascot tomorrow)
Next best: Ricky Ticky Tavie
(2.00 Ascot tomorrow)

Computer tipster, page 4

Decorated Hero can perform with distinction

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

ASCOT
BBC1

2.00: The best will be seen of **Wall Street** next season and this first attempt at 12 furlongs will help to determine his campaign next year. However, the form of his last three starts and his style of running suggest he should be suited by the step up in trip. After running on strongly to beat Salmon Ladder in a listed race at Newbury in July, he was narrowly beaten by Sasuru in France and Singspiel at Goodwood, where he was initially outpaced before running on strongly in the final stages.

Royal Court is the obvious danger after beating the subsequent St Leger winner, Shantou, at Haydock. The Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained runner was not suited by the steady pace when third to Dushyantor in the Great Voltigeur Stakes and may find the short home straight here against him. Kalabo stayed on strongly to finish second to Busy Flight at Doncaster and looks best of the remainder.

2.35: Lucayan Prince has bags of ability as he showed when quickening decisively to come from last to first to win the Jersey Stakes, before chasing home Europe's top sprinter, Anabaa, in the July Cup. However, he is not the easiest of rides and ideally requires to be covered up behind a strong pace before challenging late on. After being drawn on the wide outside in the Haydock Sprint Cup, his draw next to the stands' rail in a big field here should be ideal for David Loder's runner and Walter Swinburn is the perfect jockey for the job.

Those looking for an each-way alternative might consider Royale Figurine, who has had a light campaign and is definitely best in the autumn. Branston Abby was unlucky in running when third to Cool Jazz in this race last year and would go well if there was any cut in the ground.

3.20: see left.

3.55: High Summer has shown dramatically improved form since these weights were framed and is running off a mark 20lb below that which the handicapper would now allocate Roger Charlton's filly. She has obvious claims, but, given her much publicised wind problems, she could be worth opposing at cramped odds, as could the well-treated Prince Babar, who always seems to find one too good in the top handicaps.

In the circumstances Green Barries and Primo Lara make some appeal, along with Kayvee, who goes particularly well here. However, **Decorated Hero** can defy top weight after resuming winning ways at Doncaster last time. John Gosden's classy runner is best in a strongly-run race on a straight track.

RICHARD EVANS

ASCOT

THUNDERER

2.00 Royal Court
2.35 Lucayan Prince
3.20 First Island
3.55 **DOUBLE BOUNCE** (nap)
4.30 Ninia
5.00 Plaisir D'Amour
5.30 Pike Creek

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.55 HIGH SUMMER.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.00 Wall Street. 3.20 **BOSRA SHAM** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 CUMBERLAND LODGE STAKES

BBC1

(Group III: £31,400. 1m 4f) (8 runners)

101	(8)	0-31162	KALABO 15 (D,F,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-0	M J Kinane	94
102	(4)	102122	SALMON LADDER 21 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 4-9-0	T Quinn	98
103	(6)	223015	ST MAWES 14 (D,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 3-8-9	K Darley	93
104	(2)	6-50552	QUAKERS FIELD 23 (F,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 3-8-6	G Duffield	95
105	(5)	113	ROYAL COURT 39 (D,BF,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6	J Reid	[illegible]
106	(3)	1203	SUMMER SPELL 35 (S) (W Robins) R Charlton 3-8-6	S Sanders	85
107	(7)	210142	WALL STREET 14 (F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-6	L Dettori	97
108	(1)	212233	PRIOLINA 37 (B,D,G) (J Keeling) J Hayden (Ire) 3-8-3	J Quinn	93

BETTING: 7-4 Royal Court, 4-1 St Mawes, 5-1 Salmon Ladder, Wall Street, 6-1 Kalabo, 10-1 Summer Spell, 12-1 others.

1995: RIYADIAN 3-8-6 T Quinn (2-1) P Cole 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KALABO 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Busy Flight in listed race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm).
SALMON LADDER neck 2nd of 7 to Sacrament in group III Grosvenor Casinos September Stakes at Kempton (1m 3f, good).
ST MAWES about 8¾l 5th of 11 to Shantou in St Leger at Doncaster (1m 6f, good to firm). Previously beat Chief Contender head in 12-runner group III Westminster Taxi Insurance Gordon Stakes at Goodwood (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start with QUAKERS FIELD (3lb better off) about 1½l 5th and SUMMER SPELL (3lb better off) 11½l 10th.
QUAKERS FIELD 2½l 2nd of 11 to Arabian Story in handicap at York (1m 4f, good). ROYAL COURT 2l 3rd of 6 to Dushyantor in group II Great Voltigeur Stakes at York (1m 4f, good).
SUMMER SPELL 3¼l 3rd of 7 to Sharaf Kabeer in listed race at Goodwood (1m 6f, good).
WALL STREET 1l 2nd of 4 to Singspiel in group III Westminster Taxi Insurance Select Stakes at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm).
PRIOLINA, good effort, head and 1¾l 3rd to Eva Luna in 10-runner listed race at York (1m 4f, good to firm).
Selection: KALABO

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8/1 First Island
12/1 Charnwood Forest
25/1 Soviet Line
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LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT
William HILL

2.35 RACAL DIADEM STAKES

BBC1

(Group II: £58,350: 6f) (13 runners)

201	(12)	612011	DARING DESTINY 31 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Wright) K Burke 5-9-1	R Hughes	94
202	(9)	40-4106	AVERTI 8 (D,F,G) (D Deer) W Muir 5-9-0	Pat Eddery	85
203	(5)	000400	COOL JAZZ 21 (CD,F,S) (S Manana) C Brittain 5-9-0	M J Kinane	91
204	(10)	14-2100	DIFFIDENT 91 (D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-0	L Dettori	89
205	(6)	001041	JAYANNPEE 20 (D,F,G) (J Paniccia) I Balding 5-9-0	R Cochrane	94
206	(1)	632125	LUCAYAN PRINCE 21 (B,C,F) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 3-8-12	W R Swinburn	[illegible]
207	(3)	240006	LUCKY LIONEL 43 (C,F,G) (A Balzarini) R Hannon 3-8-12	O Peslier	93
208	(11)	21202P	SYLVA PARADISE 7 (D,F,S) (E Grimstead Honda) C Brittain 3-8-12	B Doyle	84
209	(2)	403140	BRANSTON ABBY 37 (D,F,G,S) (D Abell) M Johnston 7-8-11	J Weaver	91
210	(8)	234101	CARRANITA 36 (D,F,G,S) (Lamb Lane Assocs) B Palling 6-8-11	T Sprake	94
211	(13)	0-24034	LEAP FOR JOY 34 (D,F,S) (S Hata) J Gosden 4-8-11	R Hills	95
212	(4)	23-3561	ROYALE FIGURINE 57 (D,F,G,S) (C Pearman) M Fetherston-Godley 5-8-11	J Reid	90
213	(7)	40-2135	WATCH ME 57 (D,G) (S Suhail) R Hannon 3-8-9	M Hills	91

BETTING: 9-4 Lucayan Prince, 5-1 Diffident, 6-1 Daring Destiny, 8-1 Royale Figurine, 10-1 Jayannpee, 12-1 Carranita, 14-1 others

1995: COOL JAZZ 4-9-0 C Nakatani (33-1) C Brittain 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARING DESTINY beat Hever Golf Rose short-head in group II Jacobs Goldene Peitsche at Baden-Baden (6f, good). DIFFIDENT best effort this term, beat Heart Lake short-head in conditions race at Abu Dhabi (7f, good to firm). LUCAYAN PRINCE 3¼l 5th of 11 to Iktamal in group I Haydock Park Sprint Cup (6f, good to firm). BRANSTON ABBY 3¼l 4th of 8 to Personal Love in listed race at Geisenkirchen-Horst (7f, good) on penultimate start. CARRANITA beat Abzal 1l in 11-runner listed race at Newmarket (6f, good to soft). LEAP FOR JOY about 2½l 4th of 9 to Kistena in group III Prix de Meautry at Deauville (6f, good). ROYALE FIGURINE beat Tropical Dance 4l in conditions race at Newmarket (6f, good to firm).
Selection: LUCAYAN PRINCE

3.20 QUEEN ELIZABETH II STAKES

BBC1

(Group I: £199,020: 1m rnd) (7 runners)

301	(3)	21-2124	CHARNWOOD FOREST 44 (CD,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-1	M J Kinane	91
302	(4)	351112	FIRST ISLAND 39 (C,D,F,G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-9-1	M Hills	94
303	(6)	26-0215	SOVIET LINE 102 (D,F,G,S) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 6-9-1	T Quinn	88
304	(2)	11-1121	ASHKALANI 20 (D,F,G) (HH Aga Khan) A de Royer Dupre (Fr) 3-8-11	G Mosse	94
305	(1)	5-34123	BIJOU D'INDE 39 (CD,F,G) (J Morrison) M Johnston 3-8-11	J Weaver	91
306	(5)	21-101	MARK OF ESTEEM 35 (D,F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-11	L Dettori	[illegible]
307	(7)	11-11	BOSRA SHAM 146 (CD,F,S) (Wafic Said) H Cecil 3-8-8	Pat Eddery	90

BETTING: 9-4 Bosra Sham, 5-2 Mark Of Esteem, 3-1 Ashkalani, 8-1 First Island, Bijou d'Inde, 10-1 Charnwood Forest, 20-1 Soviet Line

1995: BAHRI 3-8-11 W Carson (5-2) J Dunlop 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHARNWOOD FOREST 2l 4th of 9 to Spinning World in group I Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville (1m, good). FIRST ISLAND 3l 2nd of 6 to Halling in group I Juddmonte International Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yd, good). ASHKALANI beat Spinning World 1½l in 9-runner group I Emirates Prix du Moulin de Longchamp at Longchamp (1m, good to firm). BIJOU D'INDE neck 2nd of 7 to Halling in group I Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. MARK OF ESTEEM beat Bishop Of Cashel 3½l in 7-runner group II Tripleprint Celebration Mile at Goodwood (1m, good). BOSRA SHAM completed double, beat Matiya 1½l in 13-runner group I 1000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to firm).
Selection: ASHKALANI (nap)

3.55 TOTE FESTIVAL HANDICAP

BBC1

(£50,103 7f) (26 runners)

401	(22)	202-301	DECORATED HERO 14 (D,F,G) (H Allen) J Gosden 4-9-13 (5ex)	L Dettori	80
402	(16)	010-543	CELESTIAL KEY 7 (D,F,G) (M Broderick) M Johnston 6-9-10	O Peslier	80
403	(13)	312562	RAMOOZ 7 (D,F,G,S) (H Salem) B Hanbury 3-9-8	W R Swinburn	80
404	(24)	303045	WORLD PREMIER 15 (C,F,G) (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 3-9-7	B Doyle	90
405	(11)	122002	HI NOD 14 (D,F,G) (B Nordan) M Camacho 6-9-5	L Charnock	87
406	(2)	332222	RUSSIAN MUSIC 15 (D,BF,F) (7th Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 3-9-5	M J Kinane	80
407	(26)	402410	KAYVEE 15 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) G Harwood 7-9-0	A Clark	86
408	(27)	632323	PRINCE BABAR 7 (D,G) (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 5-9-0	Pat Eddery	92
409	(6)	0-32324	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 57 (C,F) ([illegible]) M Johnston 3-9-0	J Weaver	81
410	([illegible])	260250	MY BEST VALENTINE 4 (D,F,G) (The Valentines) J White 6-8-12	R Hughes	84
411	(12)	521110	GREEN BARRIES 49 (D,F,S) (M Al Maktoum) M Johnston 3-8-12	M Hills	81
412	(21)	510010	PATSY GRIMES 7 (D,F,G,S) (J Sheehan) J Moore 6-8-11	P P Murphy (5)	86
413	(10)	24-2144	SABOT 55 (D,F) (J Hanson) B Hills 3-8-10	J Reid	80
414	(17)	031260	DOUBLE BOUNCE 7 (F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 6-8-10	K Darley	89
415	(4)	143056	MY GALLERY 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) (R Cox) A Bailey 5-8-8	D Wright (3)	86
416	(15)	114006	ALMUHIMM 14 (D,F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-8	R Hills	80
417	(8)	5010-05	QUEENFISHER 77 (D,F) (K Higson) G L Moore 4-8-7	Martin Dwyer (5)	80
418	(25)	151-360	MULLITOVER 42 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Mather) M Heaton-Ellis 6-8-6	G Duffield	83
419	(7)	104201	PRIMO LARA 21 (D,F) (Thanet Leasing) P Harris 4-8-6 (5ex)	T Quinn	83
420	(19)	000065	JAWAAL 8 (CD,F,G) (T Fox) Lady Herries 6-8-4	S Sanders	83
421	(18)	2210	GOLD SPATS 37 (D,F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 3-8-2	J Quinn	80
422	(14)	2135	CONSORT 16 (D,F) (K Abdulla) G Harwood 3-8-2	C Rutter	85
423	(3)	31012	HIGH SUMMER 16 (D,BF,F) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 3-8-1 (5ex)	T Sprake	[illegible]
424	(9)	0,1-236	ORSAY 15 (G) (D Deer) W Muir 4-7-11	M Henry (3)	85
425	(5)	014000	MOUNTGATE 14 (D,F,G) (J Campbell) M Bielby 4-7-10	N Carlisle	83
426	(20)	0*5000	GARNOCK VALLEY 7 (F,G,S) ([illegible]) J Berry 6-7-10	Declan O'Shea	77

BETTING: 7-2 High Summer, 7-1 Prince Babar, 10-1 Decorated Hero, 11-1 Hi Nod, 12-1 Ramooz, 14-1 Jawaal, Consort, 16-1 Russian Music, 20-1 others

1995: NIGHT DANCE 3-7-10 A Whelan (20-1) G Lewis 27 ran

FORM FOCUS

DECORATED HERO beat HI NOD (4lb better off) 1¼l in 11-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). RAMOOZ ¾l 2nd of 9 to Wandering Thoughts in listed race at The Curragh (7f, good to firm).
RUSSIAN MUSIC 1½l 2nd of 6 to Polar Prince in conditions race at Goodwood (7f, good). KAYVEE beat Sonarell neck in conditions race at Nottingham (1m, good to soft). PRINCE BABAR 1½l and neck 3rd of 28 to Coastal Bluff in Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup (6f, good to firm). PRIMO LARA beat Drummer Golf [illegible] in 14-runner handicap at Haydock (7f, good to firm). HIGH SUMMER 1½l 2nd of 7 to My Branch in listed race at Doncaster (7f, good to firm).
Selection: HIGH SUMMER

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Bath (2.00, first race), Hamilton Park (2.15)
TUESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.55), Sedgefield (2.15)
WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.20), Exeter (2.15), Newcastle (2.00), Salisbury (2.10)
THURSDAY: Market Rasen (2.10), Newmarket (C4, 1.30), Taunton (1.50)
FRIDAY: Hexham (2.15), Lingfield Park (1.50), Newmarket (C4, 2.00)
SATURDAY: Chepstow (BBC, 2.00), Haydock Park (1.40), Newmarket (C4, 2.00), Uttoxeter (2.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00)
SUNDAY: Haydock Park (2.00), Kelso (2.30), Kempton Park (2.10)
Flat meetings in bold

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.30 ROSEMARY RATED HANDICAP

(Listed race: fillies: £19,129: 1m str) (19 runners)

501	(9)	2120-60	DARLING FLAME 126 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-9-7	R Hughes	84
502	(16)	1-26421	MIN ALHAWA 16 (F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) W Hern 3-9-7	R Hills	98
503	(7)	13-0440	NAJIYA 28 (F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-9-7	K Darley	90
504	(19)	1-54	POLSKA 16 (C,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 3-9-7	W R Swinburn	92
505	(8)	1154	ABEYR 35 (D,F,S) (A Al Maktoum) M Jarvis 3-9-5	R Cochrane	96
506	(13)	611104	NINIA 8 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs D Schreiber) M Johnston 4-9-4	J Weaver	98
507	(2)	12P-450	PALOMA BAY 11 (G) (Mrs E Harris) M Bell 3-9-1	M Fenton	89
508	(14)	125-335	PRANCING 60 (F) (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 3-9-0	O Peslier	90
509	(5)	1405	CABARET 35 (G) (I Allan) P Chapple-Hyam 3-9-0	J Reid	94
510	(18)	1365	SATIN BELL 35 (S) (N Jones) J Dunlop 3-9-0	M J Kinane	90
511	(6)	20121	FATEFULLY 11 (D,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-9-0	L Dettori	97
512	(12)	2-5141	AERLEON JANE 124 (F,S) (P Locke) J Gosden 3-8-11	B Doyle	88
513	(11)	546032	MARL 17 (BF,G) (E Parker) R Akehurst 3-8-9	T Quinn	98
514	(17)	2210	QUESTONIA 35 (D,BF,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-8	Pat Eddery	90
515	(15)	231114	DIVINA LUNA 29 (D,F,G) (D Deer) J Hills 3-8-7	M Hills	97
516	(1)	121000	ANASTINA 8 (D,G,S) (R Craddock) N Graham 4-8-7	S Sanders	90
517	(3)	51114	PANATA 15 (D,F) (Mrs A Silver) L Cumani 3-8-3	O Urbina	[illegible]
518	(10)	35-4231	SUPAMOVA 17 (D,F) (M Arbib) P Cole 3-8-3	C Rutter	90
519	(4)	12-6525	TRAFALGAR LADY 21 (S) (W Armitage) R Charlton 3-8-3	T Sprake	92

Long handicap: Anastina 8-2, Supamova 7-13, Trafalgar Lady 7-12.

BETTING: 4-1 Min Alhawa, 11-2 Fatefully, 6-1 Cabaret, 8-1 Divina Luna, 10-1 Abeyr, 12-1 Panata, 14-1 Prancing, 16-1 others

1995: HAWAYA 3-9-13 R Hills (5-1) H Thomson Jones 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MIN ALHAWA beat Miss Universal 3½l in 4-runner conditions race at Chepstow (1m 3f, good to firm). NINIA 2¾l 4th of 18 to Pride Of Pendle in handicap at Ayr (1m, good to firm).
POLSKA 2¾l 4th of 7 to My Branch in listed race at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). FATEFULLY beat Sandhill 2½l in 9-runner handicap at Sandown (1m, good to firm). AERLEON JANE beat Alpine Twist 1l in 7-runner handicap at Sandown (7f, good to soft). QUESTONIA beat Yalta 1½l in 17-runner maiden at Windsor (1m 67yd, good). DIVINA LUNA about 2l 4th of 14 to Concer Un in handicap at Chester (7f, good to soft).
PANATA 2¾l 4th of 17 to Autumn Cover in handicap at Goodwood (1m 1f, good to firm).
Selection: FATEFULLY

5.00 BLUE SEAL CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O fillies: £12,336: 6f) (5 runners)

601	(1)	1	CORSINI 18 (F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-11	Pat Eddery	91
602	(2)		CHILI BOUCHIER (J Simpson) D Marks 8-8	G Duffield	—
603	(3)	5	DUST DANCER 22 (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 8-8	T Quinn	93
604	(5)	2	LOCHANGEL 21 (J Smith) I Balding 8-8	L Dettori	[illegible]
605	(4)		PLAISIR D'AMOUR (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8-8	O Peslier	—

BETTING: 4-5 Corsini, 5-2 Dust Dancer, 5-1 Lochangel, 10-1 Plaisir d'Amour, 50-1 Chili Bouchier

1995: POLSKA 8-8 M J Kinane (7-4) D Loder 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORSINI beat Chorus Song 1½l in 14-runner maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm). CHILI BOUCHIER (foaled Feb 23). By Slip The Music, half-sister to 1m - 2m winner Regal Access and 7f juvenile winner Known Approach; dam, half-sister to Irish 1,000 Guineas winner More So, placed in America. DUST DANCER 6l 5th of 11 to One So Wonderful in conditions race at Kempton (7f, good). LOCHANGEL 4l 2nd of 14 to Blane Water in maiden at Kempton (6f, good). PLAISIR D'AMOUR (Jan 30, cost 130,000gns). By Danehill, sister to last year's high-class 6f/7f juvenile winner Danehill Dancer; dam once-raced maiden.
Selection: CORSINI

5.35 GORDON CARTER HANDICAP

(£14,655: 2m 45yd) (18 runners)

1	(1)	1-35300	FUJIYAMA CREST 91 (V,CD,F,G) (S Hata) M Stoute 4-9-10	L Dettori	91
2	(2)	0-63613	IVOR'S FLUTTER 14 (C,G,S) (W Perry) D Elsworth 7-9-8	D Griffiths (5)	96
3	(3)	042160	SEA VICTOR 33 (D,F,G) (D Abell) J L Harris 4-9-3	M J Kinane	93
4	(11)	625020	SILENTLY 33 (F,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-9-2	K Darley	92
5	(7)	0-02323	TUDOR ISLAND 17 (F,G) (D Sieff) C Brittain 7-9-2	B Doyle	[illegible]
6	(18)	443220	EMBRYONIC 17 (F) (Mrs D Miller) R Fisher 4-9-0	W R Swinburn	98
7	(10)	0-52122	FLOCHECK 9 (G) (Stonethorn Stud) J Dunlop 3-9-0	J Weaver	94
8	(16)	3341-00	MEANT TO BE 14 (CD,F,S) (Lady Mary Mumford) Lady Herries 6-9-0	P Doe (7)	90
9	(15)	221054	PEARL VENTURE 9 (D,F,S) (F Chao) S Woods 4-8-13	R Hughes	95
10	(9)	4-104	PIKE CREEK 15 (F) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 3-8-9	R Cochrane	97
11	(4)	1,30-510	REIMEI 70 (F,G) (J Goldsmith) R Akehurst 7-8-8	T Quinn	96
12	(13)	4332	UPPER GALLERY 33 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6	J Reid	93
13	(14)	341211	DURHAM 7 (B,F,G) (Secret Partners) H Howe 5-8-6	S Whitworth	97
14	(17)	4-2341	NORTHERN FLEET 35 (D,G) (K Abdulla) G Harwood 3-8-6	Pat Eddery	89
15	(12)	0002-10	MIROSWAKI 14 (G) (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6-8-3	S Sanders	98
16	(5)	206312	ETTERBY PARK 5 (BF,F,G,S) (G Middlebrook) M Johnston 3-8-2	M Henry (3)	97
17	(8)	213340	SHOOTING LIGHT 38 (S) (J Brown) P Murphy 3-8-1	T Sprake	96
18	(6)	103332	SHINING DANCER 17 (F) (Lakemans Partners) S Dow 4-7-13	J Quinn	98

BETTING: 6-1 Upper Gallery, 7-1 Flocheck, 8-1 Tudor Island, Durham, 10-1 Etterby Park, 12-1 Ivor's Flutter, Shining Dancer, 14-1 others

1995: FUJIYAMA CREST 3-8-8 L Dettori (8-1) M Stoute 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

IVOR'S FLUTTER two necks 3rd of 13 to Great Easeby in handicap at Goodwood (2m, good to firm) with MIROSWAKI (2lb better off) 5½l 8th and MEANT TO BE (5lb better off) 11l 10th.
EMBRYONIC 5l 2nd of 10 to Orchestra Stall in handicap at Newcastle (2m, good) with SEA VICTOR (1lb worse off) 6l 5th.
FLOCHECK 5l 2nd of 8 to Jiyush in handicap at Yarmouth (2m 2f, good to firm) with PEARL VENTURE (6lb better off) 7½l 4th. PIKE CREEK 4½l 4th of 13 to Spillo in handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm).
REIMEI, best recent effort, beat Lookingforarainbow 1½l in 10-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm).
DURHAM beat Floating Line 5l in 11-runner handicap at Ayr (1m 5f, good to firm).
Selection: DURHAM

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Wragg	15	69	21.7	M J Kinane	23	131	17.6
Lady Herries	8	38	21.1	G Duffield	4	25	16.0
S bin Suroor	5	26	19.2	J Weaver	13	86	15.1
J Dunlop	26	136	19.1	T Quinn	27	188	14.4
R Akehurst	14	78	17.9	Pat Eddery	35	249	14.1
H Cecil	15	90	16.7	L Dettori	27	218	12.4
J Gosden	20	126	15.9	W R Swinburn	21	177	11.9

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Going: good

2.00 (1m 2f 120yd) 1, **NAAZEO** (R Hills, 9-1); 2, **Grand Splendour** (K Fallon, 7-1); 3, **Infatuation** (D O'Shea, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Diamond Dance (5th), 9 Raise A Prince (4th), 10 Trutchev (6th), 12 Winnebago, 14 Roberto Riva, 25 Evening In Paris, Magic Role, 33 Dunston Queen, I Say Dancer, Jungle Fresh, Shirtaty, Soldier Blue. 15 ran. NR: Solitaire. 3½l, ½l, ¾l, 7l, nk. A Stewart at Newmarket. Tote: £13.90; £2.90, £2.10, £1.50. DF: £78.00. Trio: £83.70. CSF: £70.72.

2.30 (6f) 1, **DENSBEN** (A Culhane, 12-1); 2, **Prime Silk** (R Hughes, 16-1); 3, **Barato** (K Fallon, 6-1); 4, **Saddlehome** (L Dettori, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Dominelle, 7 Naughty Pistol, 10 Allwight Then (5th), 12 Blushing Grenadier, 14 Night Harmony, 16 Another Nightmare, Bargash, Milos, Myttons Mistake, 20 Craignairn, Double Oscar (6th), John's Law, Nakami, Purple Memories, 25 Comeonup, Standown, 33 Bashful Brave, Gormire, Maybank. 23 ran. NR: Sue Me. Hd, 1¼l, 1¾l, 1¼l, 1½l. Denys Smith at Bishop Auckland. Tote: £13.80; £2.50, £4.40, £2.10, £3.00. DF: £174.50. Trio: £284.80. CSF: £203.64. Tricast: £1,215.22.

3.00 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, **HAYA YA KEFAAH** (T Sprake, 16-1); 2, **Sugar Mill** (A Culhane, 13-2); 3, **Rusk** (M Wigham, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Calder King, 8 Circus Star, House Of Riches (5th), 9 Eagle Canyon, Lord Hastie (6th), 10 Secret Service, Traceability, 14 Rex Mundi (4th), Shadow Leader, 20 Endowment, Glide Path, 33 Otto E Mezzo. 15 ran. Nk, ½l, sh hd, 1l, nk. N Babbage at Cheltenham. Tote: £18.10; £5.60, £2.30, £5.00. DF: £53.50. Trio: £303.60. CSF: £114.61. Tricast: £1,218.30.

3.30 (1m 30yd) 1, **HIGH PREMIUM** (A Culhane, 11-2 fav); 2, **Gladys Althorpe** (K Fallon, 6-1); 3, **Pomona** (Pat Eddery, 7-1); 4, **Duke Valentino** (F Lynch, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Jumairah Sunset, 13-2 Courageous Dancer, 12 Rakis (5th), 14 Blaze Of Song, Maple Bay (6th), 16 Dragon's Back, Soofy, Tom, 20 Flag Fen, Mister Woodstick, Rambo Waltzer, 25 Dee-Lady, Elite Hope, 33 Nkapen Rocks. 17 ran. NR: Therhea. 1½l, nk, 1¼l, nk, 1½l. R Fahey at Malton. Tote: £7.90; £1.80, £1.40, £2.00, £3.80. DF: £18.80. Trio: £36.20. CSF: £39.06. Tricast: £234.75.

4.00 (6f) 1, **TRADING ACES** (R Mullen, 12-1); 2, **Dayville** (T Sprake, 3-1 fav); 3, **Abstone Queen** (J F Egan, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Why O Six, 13-2 Good Day (6th), 7 Cherokee Flight (5th), 8 Cairn Dhu (4th), Permission, 10 Rum Lad, Voeraponq. 10 ran. 1½l, 1½l, 4l, ½l, ¾l. M Bell at Newmarket. Tote: £14.10; £2.70, £1.70, £3.40. DF: £28.50. Trio: £72.60. CSF: £49.44. Tricast: £402.98.

4.30 (1m 6f) 1, **MOONAX** (Pat Eddery, 11-10 jt-fav); 2, **Court Of Honour** (J Reid, 11-10 jt-fav); 3, **Poltarf** (L Dettori, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 25 Edipo Re (4th). 4 ran. NR: Tep On Tootsie. 1l, 1½l, 20l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £1.90. DF: £1.20. CSF: £2.60.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £3,337.56 carried forward to Ascot today).
Placepot: £164.20. Quadpot: £11.10.

Redcar

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.10 (7f) 1, **PRIENA** (K Darley, 4-7 fav); 2, **Pretty Sharp** (J Fortune, 7-4); 3, **Go For Green** (J Slack, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Tyrolean Dancer (4th), 33 Diamond Eyre, 50 Dance Melody, Daunting Times, Megan Carew. 8 ran. 7l, 1½l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.24.

2.40 (1m) 1, **MELS BABY** (Miss Diana Jones, 10-1); 2, **Awesome Venture** (Mr R Thornton, 14-1); 3, **Cee-Jay-Ay** (Mr R Hale, 14-1); 4, **Breezed Well** (Mrs H Noonan, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Polly Peculiar (6th), 8 Thatched, 11 Squared Away (5th), 12 Aeroking, Northern Grey, 14 Lady Silk, 16 Great Bear, Ch Susannah, 20 Dispol Gem, Rainbows Rhapsody, 25 Bill Moon, Kinnamurryra Girl, Love Legend, Prudent Pet, Soldier Cove, 33 Habeta, Lucky Bea, Peaceful Reply, Statistician, Upex Le Gold Too, 50 Straight Thinking, 66 Islay Brown, 100 Marsh's Law, Natural Path. 28 ran. NR: Kingchip Boy. 1l, hd, 1¾l, nk, nk. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £8.40; £2.00, £4.40, £3.40, £4.70. DF: £84.60. Trio: £175.60. CSF: £147.83. Tricast: £1,879.86.

3.10 (1m 3f) 1, **DUNROWAN** (K Darley, 3-1); 2, **My Millie** (L Charnock, 12-1); 3, **Sylvella** (P Bloomfield, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Reinhardt (6th), 7 Mrs Drummond, 8 Whothehellsharry, 12 Lomond Lassie, 14 Rothley Imp, 16 Irish Oasis, 20 Shops, Swynford Supreme, 25 Cocoon (5th), Colway Bridge, 33 Dino's Mistral (4th), Magical Midnight, Noble Colours (ref). 16 ran. 1l, 1¼l, 5l, 6l, 1l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £5.80, £1.60. DF: £156.90. Trio: £50.90. CSF: £44.81. Bought in 3,600gns.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, **URGENT SWIFT** (J Fortune, 8-1); 2, **Elashath** (J Weaver, 11-10 fav); 3, **Desert Fighter** (G Lee, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Forest Fantasy, 13-2 Apollono (5th), 8 Essayeffsee (4th), Ordained, 14 Fran Godfrey, 25 Spanish Verdict (6th), 40 Colorful Ambition (ref). 10 ran. Hd, hd, 1l, 1l, 1¾l. A Jarvis at Didcot. Tote: £10.30; £2.80, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £8.00. Trio: £80.70. CSF: £18.77. Tricast: £95.95.

4.10 (7f) 1, **QUILLING** (J Fortune, 7-2 jt-fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, **Glowing Jade** (K Darley, 7-2 jt-fav); 3, **Anonym** (J Bramhill, 7-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 9 Kid Ory (6th), King Rat, Robellion (5th), 12 Murray's Mazda (4th), 14 Spanish Stripper, 16 Tinklers Folly, 20 Shashi. 10 ran. Nk, ¾l, 3l, 2l, sh hd. M Dods at Darlington. Tote: £4.40; £2.00, £2.30, £1.50. DF: £7.60. Trio: £8.00. CSF: £16.65. Tricast: £44.95.

4.40 (7f) 1, **ZAIMA** (K Darley, 11-4); 2, **Plan For Profit** (J Weaver, 7-4 fav); 3, **Strelitza** (N Kennedy, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Super Saint, 7 Broctune Line, 8 The Deejay (6th), 11 Jack Flush (5th), 16 Caspian Morn, Danka (4th). 9 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l, 4l, ¾l, 1½l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £3.00; £2.70, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £3.30. Trio: £14.40. CSF: £9.14. Tricast: £31.86.

Placepot: £14.70. Quadpot: £2.40.

Folkestone

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.50 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, **Omara** (W Ryan, 7-2); 2, **Kentucky Fall** (9-1); 3, **Scarpies** (10-1). Unaflowed 1-2 fav. 10 ran. 4l, 4l. H Cecil. Tote: £4.60; £1.10, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £14.10. Trio: £12.40. CSF: £30.69. Classic Form (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies, deduct 5p in pound.

2.20 (6f) 1, *Eager To Please* (T Quinn, 9-2); 2, Hever Golf Charger (5-1); 3, Russian Sable (8-1). Down, 11-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Senate Swings. Hd, nk. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £9.00. Trio: £22.50. CSF: £27.13.

2.50 (5f) 1, **Anokato** (Martin Dwyer, 5-2); 2, Keen Waters (10-1); 3, Tailwind (4-5 fav). 5 ran. 1½l, 5l. K Ivory. Tote: £3.90; £1.20, £4.30. DF: £37.50. CSF: £20.78.

3.20 (5f) 1, **Ellens Lad** (Dane O'Neill, 5-1); 2, Sica Key Silca (7-1); 3, Perpetual (6-5 fav). 6 ran. ¾l, 1l. R Hannon. Tote: £6.00; £2.00, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £24.30. CSF: £37.96. Tricast: £63.60.

3.50 (1m 7f 92yd) 1, **Ayunli** (M Henry, 5-1); 2, Miss Prism (15-2); 3, Paradise Navy (11-1); 4, Mr Copyforce (7-1). Sterling Fellow 5-2 fav. 16 ran. 6l, ¾l. S Williams. Tote: £5.70; £2.00, £1.20, £2.70, £1.60. DF: £16.70. Trio: £74.70. CSF: £46.27. Tricast: £363.26.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, **Ocean Park** (A Clark, 9-2 jt-fav); 2, Prospero (5-1); 3, No Pattern (10-1). Madame Steinlen 9-2 jt-fav. 11 ran. 1½l, hd. Lady Herries. Tote: £5.80; £1.90, £2.10, £4.70. DF: £27.50. Trio: £140.40. CSF: £27.24. After an objection by the clerk of the scales, Almuhtaram, who finished fourth, was disqualified for failing to weigh in.

4.50 (6f 189yd) 1, **Mr Cube** (C Lowther, 15-2); 2, Sand Star (20-1); 3, Morocco (11-2); 4, Sapphire Son (14-1). Utmost Zeal 2-1 fav. 16 ran. 1½l, nk. J Bradley. Tote: £8.20; £2.00, £2.30, £2.10, £3.00. DF: £125.00. Trio: £106.00. CSF: £160.73. Tricast: £611.95.

Placepot: £291.10. Quadpot: £46.10.

BLUE BLOOD FOR SALE
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HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.05 Great Tern. 2.40 Nile Valley. 3.10 Danegold. 3.45 River Usk. 4.20 Lord High Admiral. 4.55 Kazimiera.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.45 River Usk.

GOING: GOOD SIS
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.05 SEPTEMBER MAIDEN HANDICAP

(£3,241: 1m 6f) (20 runners)

1	(4)	256-	MENDO WHO 213J S Gollings 4-9-10	F Lynch (3)	–
2	(19)	3-00	VEILED DANCER 93 J Dunlop 3-9-10	K Fallon	90
3	(11)	2660	TAHAROA 50 J Gosden 3-9-10	G Hind	95
4	(3)	0-00	GALAKA 24 L Cumani 3-9-7	J Stack	90
5	(13)	65-0	CHALCUCHIMA 11 R Charlton 3-9-5	W Ryan	91
6	(6)	0300	DALWHINNIE 19 J Hills 3-9-6	A McCarthy (7)	91
7	(1)	020	LUCKY HOOF 18 C Brittain 3-9-5	M Roberts	90
8	(9)	0-60	SICARIAN 68 M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-5	Dane O'Neill	86
9	(14)	6600	CRABBIE'S PRIDE 7 M Meagher 3-9-3	R Studholme (7)	96
10	(10)	5530	ALISURA 12 J Fanshawe 3-9-2	N Varley (3)	97
11	(7)	0002	COMPASS POINTER 28 J Eustace 3-9-2	M Tebbutt	98
12	(20)	5032	LEPIKHA 10 B Hills 3-9-2	D McKeown	94
13	(8)	0545	FOREVER NOBLE 75 M Channon 3-9-0	R Perham	90
14	(18)	3335	PLEASURELAND 30 (B,BF) P Makin 3-9-0	R Havlin (3)	97
15	(16)	5666	INDIANA PRINCESS 10 Mrs M Reveley 3-8-12	A Culhane	98
16	(2)	035	GIVE AND TAKE 33 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-11	D Harrison	91
17	(12)	020-	SEDVICTA 187J Mrs M Reveley 4-8-10	G Lee (5)	90
18	(15)	0650	SO KEEN 31 A Bailey 3-8-9	G Carter	90
19	(17)	4600	JUNIOR BEN 10 P Howling 4-8-5	F Norton	98
20	(5)	6044	GREAT TERN 9 N Babbage 4-8-5	Ffrench (7)	▣

5-1 Compass Pointer, 6-1 Lucky Hoof, 7-1 Taharoa, Lepikha, 8-1 Veiled Dancer, Forever Noble, 10-1 others.

2.40 SALE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,453: 1m 30yd) (11)

1	(4)	0	BOUT 18 J Gosden 8-11	G Hind	93
2	(11)	0	COOL GREY 22 J J O'Neill 8-11	G Bardwell	–
3	(7)	565	EPOMINE 29 M Channon 8-11	R Perham	94
4	(1)		MAZARA A Foster 8-11	G Carter	–
5	(8)		MYRTLEBANK H Cecil 8-11	W Ryan	–
6	(6)	2	NILE VALLEY 33 P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	R Havlin (3)	▣
7	(2)		NOISETTE J Gosden 8-11	A Garth	–
8	(10)		OLD COLONY P Cole 8-11	Dane O'Neill	–
9	(9)	0	SMART SPIRIT 24 Mrs M Reveley 8-11	A Culhane	82
10	(5)		VALENCIA R Charlton 8-11	K Fallon	–
11	(3)	0	WELCOME HOME 22 P Dalton 8-11	D McKeown	–

9-4 Nile Valley, 5-2 Myrtlebank, 6-1 Old Colony, 7-1 Noisette, Valencia, 8-1 Bout, 12-1 Epomine, 14-1 others.

3.10 AKZO NOBEL PREMIER HANDICAP

(£6,125: 1m 2l 120yd) (9)

1	(1)	0-00	QUANGO 37 (B,D,F,G) J Fitzgerald 4-10-0	K Fallon	85
2	(8)	2001	SECRET ALY 10 (D,F,G) C Brittain 6-9-8	M Roberts	94
3	(7)	4216	WAFIR 21 (D,G,S) P Calver 4-9-7	M Birch	92
4	(4)	5005	DANEGOLD 7 (V,D,F,G,S) M Channon 4-9-1	R Perham	93
5	(5)	-340	OBELOS 14 (D,F) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-8	G Bardwell	90
6	(6)	5420	A-AASEM 28 H Thomson Jones 3-8-6	G Carter	▣
7	(3)	01-0	DANCE STAR 17 (F) M Jarvis 3-8-6	Emma O'Gorman	92
8	(2)	5440	SAMIM 14 (B,G) S Gollings 3-8-4	F Lynch (3)	90
9	(9)	003	NAMOODAJ 19 (BF) A Stewart 3-8-3	D Harrison	91

11-4 Secret Aly, 9-2 Wafir, 5-1 Obelos, 6-1 A-Aasem, 8-1 Danegold, Quango, Namoodaj, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 21 winners from 60 runners, 35.0%; P Chapple-Hyam, 8 from 32, 25.0%; P Makin, 5 from 20, 25.0%; J Dunlop, 28 from 119, 23.5%; J Gosden, 24 from 103, 23.3%.

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 31 winners from 141 rides, 22.0%; N Varley, 3 from 14, 21.4%; R Havlin, 3 from 15, 20.0%; D Harrison, 6 from 41, 14.6%; G Carter, 9 from 87, 10.3%; K Fallon, 14 from 140, 10.0%.

3.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND KNUTSFORD MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,943: 7l 30yd) (13)

1	(2)	5	AS-IS 9 M Johnston 9-0	D McKeown	–
2	(9)	0	BICTON PARK 15 D Morley 9-0	J Stack	80
3	(7)	5	FARHAN 14 P Walwyn 9-0	G Carter	▣
4	(3)		MAYLANE A Stewart 9-0	M Roberts	–
5	(6)		NORIE M Brittain 9-0	M Wigham	–
6	(11)		RIVER USK H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	–
7	(13)		RUSSIAN ASPECT M W Easterby 9-0	A Culhane	–
8	(8)	0	YAM-SING 23 T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	–
9	(10)		AGONY AUNT Mrs J Cecil 8-9	G Bardwell	–
10	(12)	52	CHORUS SONG 18 P Chapple-Hyam 8-9	R Havlin (3)	96
11	(5)		DELILAH M Stoute 8-9	K Fallon	–
12	(4)		OCEAN LIGHT A Bailey 8-9	G Hind	–
13	(1)	5	SPANISH KNOT 21 Lord Huntingdon 8-9	D Harrison	92

2-1 River Usk, 7-2 Chorus Song, 9-2 Farhan, 5-1 Delilah, 8-1 Spanish Knot, 10-1 As-Is, 12-1 Maylane, 14-1 others.

4.20 AKZO NOBEL HOLDINGS HANDICAP

(£5,865: 5f) (18)

1	(17)	0005	TWICE AS SHARP 17 (D,F,G) P Harris 4-10-0	G Hind	91
2	(7)	2000	TADEO 49 (D,F,G) M Johnston 3-9-12	F Lynch (3)	95
3	(2)	4430	LAGO DI VARANO 7 (V,D,F,G,S) R Whitaker 4-9-12	D McKeown	95
4	(4)	60-0	SNIPE HALL 39 (D,F,G,S) T Watson 5-9-11	O Pears (3)	90
5	(3)	0000	EASTERN PROPHETS 98 (D,F,S) T Naughton 3-9-9	Dane O'Neill	93
6	(14)	600	SAILORMAITE 34 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-8	D Harrison	90
7	(18)	0002	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 11 (V,CD,BF,F,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9-8	M Roberts	97
8	(13)	D00	ANSELLMAN 17 (V,D,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-7	G Carter	93
9	(9)	0001	SURPRISE MISSION 15 (D,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-1	K Fallon	98
10	(10)	5050	STOLEN KISS 78 (B,D,F,S) M W Easterby 4-9-0	A Culhane	90
11	(6)	1000	ROYAL DOME 15 (CD,F,G) M Wane 4-8-13	R Havlin (3)	97
12	(15)	1324	KIRA 15 (D,F,G) J Eyre 6-8-12	N Varley (3)	96
13	(12)	0534	JUCEA 19 (D,BF,G) J Spearing 7-8-12	W Ryan	96
14	(1)	6220	SING WITH THE BAND 15 (D,F,G) B McMahon 5-8-8	A McCarthy (7)	97
15	(8)	5403	DAAWE 15 (V,D,F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 5-8-8	M Deering	94
16	(5)	1322	GONE SAVAGE 15 (D,BF,F,G,S) W Musson 8-8-7	J Stack	▣
17	(16)	5504	MISS BIGWIG 9 (D,F,S) J Berry 3-8-6	P Fessey (5)	92
18	(11)	2000	SHADOW JURY 2 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-8-6	G Bardwell	92

5-1 Surprise Mission, 7-1 Lago Di Varano, 8-1 Lord High Admiral, Gone Savage, 10-1 Twice As Sharp, Kira, 12-1 others.

4.55 CASTLE IRWELL HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £4,258: 7l 30yd) (16)

1	(10)	30-1	MUHANDIS 69 (D,F) J Gosden 9-7	G Hind	93
2	(7)	6-00	OH WHATAKNIGHT 35 (G) J Hills 9-5	F Lynch (3)	94
3	(15)	0516	MYBOTYE 74 (D,F,G) G Oldroyd 9-5	O Pears (3)	95
4	(16)	5050	OCEAN GROVE 29 (S) P Chapple-Hyam 9-4	R Havlin (3)	96
5	(9)	0632	MEZZANOTTE 38 (BF) L Cumani 9-3	K Fallon	98
6	(11)	520	MEZNH 23 (BF) H Thomson Jones 9-1	G Carter	97
7	(2)	2054	FIRST MAITE 22 (B,G) S Bowring 9-1	D McKeown	92
8	(5)	2305	NUNSHARPA 18 J Fanshawe 9-1	N Varley (3)	96
9	(3)	0400	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 15 (G) M W Easterby 9-0	A Culhane	98
10	(12)	1253	OBERON'S DART 28 (D,G) P Makin 8-11	M Roberts	97
11	(1)	1100	NAISSANT 7 (D,G,S) R McKellar 8-11	J McAuley (7)	97
12	(13)	3630	DESERT LYNX 10 (G) T Watson 8-11	W Ryan	98
13	(4)	3440	BISCAY 21 R Charlton 8-10	D Harrison	92
14	(6)	5011	VENI VIDI VICI 21 (G) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9	Dane O'Neill	▣
15	(8)	2425	FINISTERRE 25 (G) J J O'Neill 8-5	G Bardwell	94
16	(14)	3045	KAZIMIERA 10 W Elsey 8-5	P Fessey (5)	98

3-1 Muhandis, 4-1 Mezzanotte, 6-1 Veni Vidi Vici, 8-1 Mybotye, 10-1 Oberon's Dart, 14-1 Oh Whataknight, Naissant, 16-1 others

Carson out of intensive care

WILLIE CARSON has been moved from intensive care to a surgical ward in the North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke. Carson is being treated for liver injuries received when he was kicked in the stomach by his intended mount, Meshhed, at Newbury last week.

REDCAR

THUNDERER

2.25 St Lucinda. 2.55 Diamond Crown. 3.25 Royal Jade. 3.55 Mighty Phantom. 4.25 Windsor Castle. 4.55 Lunar Music. 5.25 Flashy's Son.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.25 PARTRIDGE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,646: 6f) (6 runners)

1	2	ARCHELLO 10 G Oldroyd 8-11	G Parkin (5)	1
2	0	CIMMERIAN 12 Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	J Fortune	4
3		GOLLACCIA G Moore 8-11	J Tate	5
4	05	MULIERE 10 M Johnston 8-11	T Williams	3
5		ST LUCINDA D Loder 8-11	D R McCabe	2
6	43	THAHABYAH 10 H Thomson Jones 8-11	R Price	6

4-6 St Lucinda, 11-4 Thahabyah, 8-1 Cimmerian, 10-1 Muliere, Archello, 25-1 Gollaccia

2.55 QUAIL SELLING HANDICAP

(£2,847: 1m 2f) (17)

1	0420	DANNISTAR 21 (BF,G) P Evans 4-10-0	J F Egan	15
2	0054	KEVASINGO 4 (F,G) B Hills 4-9-12	J D Smith (5)	2
3	6450	SLAPY DAM 23 (V,G,S) J Mackie 4-9-10	G Faulkner (5)	10
4	3600	HAWWAM 14 (C,D,F,G,S) E Alston 10-9-9	S Drowne	6
5	0353	DIAMOND CROWN 4 (D,F) M Wane 5-9-5	M Rimmer	3
6	0000	TEE TEE TOO 143 (G) Miss M Milligan 4-9-5	J Fanning	9
7	4234	RAINDEER QUEST 43 (F,G) J Eyre 4-9-5	R Lappin	16
8	2050	YUPPY GIRL 21 J Wilson 3-9-3	D Sweeney (7)	14
9	0250	TOMAL 9 (C,F) R Ingram 4-9-2	D R McCabe	1
10	1403	RISKY ROSE 53 (BF,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-2	J Fortune	5
11	6064	MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 10 (D,F) N Tinkler 5-9-2	Kim Tinkler	7
12	0450	HI ROCK 4 (V,F) J Norton 4-9-2	G Parkin (5)	17
13	0450	PINKERTON POLKA 50 J Parkes 4-9-1	K Rutter	12
14	6660	SHAA SPIN 5 J Berry 4-9-1	P Roberts (5)	8
15	4005	BRAMBLES WAY 30J (V) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-1	S Copp (5)	4
16	0250	PALACEGATE JO 43 (G,S) D Chapman 5-9-0	P McCabe (3)	13
17	4000	ACQUITTAL 19 (V,F) A Streeter 4-8-13	L Newton (5)	11

6-1 Hawwam, 7-1 Slapy Dam, 9-1 Tomal, 10-1 Kevasingo, Diamond Crown, 12-1 Raindeer Quest, McGillycuddy Reeks, 14-1 others

3.25 SNIPE MAIDEN STAKES

(£4,081: 7f) (10)

1	0	BEANO SCRIPT 51 Miss S Hall 3-9-0	J F Egan	9
2	0000	KASS ALHAWA 7 D Chapman 3-9-0	P McCabe (3)	5
3	6	LA MAFARR 49 J Gosden 3-9-0	A McGlone	10
4	0060	TIME TO FLY 36 B Murray 3-9-0	V Halliday	6
5	0060	DONA FILIPA 21 Miss L Siddall 3-8-9	R Lappin	3
6	3626	HANNALOU 18 S Woods 3-8-9	D Biggs	7
7	00	HONEYHALL 21 N Bycroft 3-8-9	J Fanning	8
8		KEEN SALLY John Berry 3-8-9	T Williams	2
9	40	MISS WALSH 11 C Booth 3-8-9	J Fortune	4
10	-520	ROYAL JADE 95 (BF) B Hills 3-8-9	J D Smith (5)	1

4-6 La Mafarr, 5-2 Royal Jade, 8-1 Hannalou, 12-1 Honeyhall, 14-1 Kass Alhawa, 20-1 Time To Fly, Keen Sally, 25-1 others

3.55 TOTE BOOKMAKERS RATED HANDICAP

(£5,356: 1m 6f 19yd) (4)

1	6006	CLASSIC EAGLE 33 (S) R Harris 3-9-9	R Price	3
2	1615	HIGHFLYING 17 (CD,F,G,S) G Moore 10-9-8	J Tate	2
3	0041	GOOD HAND 8 (C,F,G) S Kettlewell 10-8-10	Jenny Benson (7)	4
4	1524	MIGHTY PHANTOM 34 (F,G) J Hills 3-8-4	A McGlone	1

6-4 Good Hand, 9-4 Mighty Phantom, 4-1 Highflying, Classic Eagle

4.25 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND GROUSE MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,652: 1m 1f) (6)

1		KOSEVO (V) M Stoute 9-0	J Tate	1
2	0	OCEAN BREEZE 38 J Wainwright 9-0	J Bramhill (7)	3
3	6	SWIFTWAY 9 K Hogg 9-0	D Sweeney (7)	4
4		WINDSOR CASTLE P Cole 9-0	M Rimmer	2
5	0	ZIGSE 9 T Barron 9-0	J Fortune	6
6		LIFFRE J Gosden 8-9	A McGlone	5

5-4 Kosevo, 7-4 Liffre, 3-1 Windsor Castle, 16-1 Zigse, 25-1 Swiftway, 33-1 Ocean Breeze.

4.55 PHEASANT NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £3,173: 5f) (11)

1	5510	LUNAR MUSIC 14 (D,F) M Meade 9-7	D Sweeney (7)	6
2	0151	LITTLE BLUE 9 (C,D,F) T Easterby 9-2	G Faulkner (5)	9
3	0150	MOLLY DRUMMOND 75 (D,S) W Elsey 9-1	N Connorton	11
4	1400	NORTHERN SAL 10 (D,S) J Berry 8-12	P Roberts (5)	5
5	0402	DONNA'S DANCER 5 (B) T Barron 8-12	J Fortune	10
6	3310	KEEN TO PLEASE 14 (D,BF,G) Denys Smith 8-10	J Fanning	1
7	0010	IMPERIAL GARDEN 14 (D,G) P Haslam 8-7	S Drowne	2
8	600	POKER PRINCESS 40 M Bell 8-4	J Tate	3
9	0102	KILCULLEN LAD 5 (F) P Mooney 8-3	D R McCabe	8
10	0000	WILLIAM'S WELL 21 (B) M W Easterby 8-3	J F Egan	4
11	0000	SHOTLEY PRINCESS 9 N Bycroft 7-10	N Kennedy	7

3-1 Little Blue, 7-2 Lunar Music, 6-1 Donna's Dancer, 7-1 Northern Sal, Keen To Please, 8-1 Kilcullen Lad, 10-1 Molly Drummond, 12-1 others

5.25 DUCK APPRENTICES HANDICAP

(£3,285: 6f) (18)

1	0000	CHEEKY CHAPPY 15 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-9-12	P McCabe	12
2	0405	CASTLEREA LAD 5 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-11	G Parkin	14
3	0463	FRENCH GRIT 21 (C,D,F) M Dods 4-9-9	C Teague	6
4	1550	HALMANERROR 21 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 6-9-9	D R McCabe	5
5	0500	WELSH MOUNTAIN 12 (V,F) M Heaton-Ellis 3-9-4	S Drowne	3
6	560U	MISTER WESTSOUND 7 (B,D,F) Miss L Perratt 4-9-4	P Clarke (5)	7
7	2000	MONTRESTAR 127 (B,F) P Evans 3-9-4	Anthony Bond (5)	17
8	0300	CAVERS YANGOUS 16 (V,D,G,S) M Johnston 5-9-2	K Sked (3)	16
9	0003	BARATO 25 (D,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-1	T Finn (5)	11
10	4000	FLASHY'S SON 4 (B,CD,F,G) F Murphy 8-8-12	D Hayden (7)	4
11	5066	INVIGILATE 56 (CD,F,G) M Wane 7-8-2	P Roberts	8
12	0040	CAMIONNEUR 9 (B,D,BF,F) T Easterby 3-8-2	G Faulkner (3)	10
13	2000	PALLIUM 9 (F,G) Mrs A Naughton 8-8-0	D Sweeney (3)	2
14	0500	MISS ARAGON 12 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 8-7-11	A Daly	13
15	0-00	NEVER SAY SO 53 C Smith 4-7-10	Jo Hunnam	1
16	0005	DISSENTOR 8 (V,D,G) J Glover 4-7-10	M Baird	15
17	3000	SWIFTY NIFTY 10 W Haigh 3-7-10	Darren Moffatt	18
18	0653	RAGAZZO 26 (B,G) J Wainwright 6-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	9

6-1 French Grit, 7-1 Halmanerror, 8-1 Cavers Yangous, Castlerea Lad, Camionneur, 10-1 Barato, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 7 winners from 22 runners, 31.8%; J Gosden, 14 from 55, 25.5%; M Stoute, 7 from 29, 24.1%; H Thomson Jones, 6 from 27, 22.2%; J Glover, 4 from 24, 16.7%; M Bell, 8 from 49, 16.3%.

JOCKEYS: J D Smith, 3 winners from 5 rides, 60.0%. Only qualifier

☐ *Singspiel tackles the grade one Canadian International, formerly the Rothmans, over 1½ miles at Woodbine, Toronto, tomorrow. Michael Stoute has booked Gary Stevens to ride the colt in a field which is expected to number seven runners.*

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.30 Difficult Decision. 3.00 Certain Angle. 3.35 Stormtracker. 4.10 Wottashambles. 4.45 Dubelle. 5.15 Strong John.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.30 BOATHOUSE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,460: 2m) (13 runners)

1	000-	CAULAIN 134 A Barrow 5-10-12	A Thornton
2	F0-2	COUNTRY MINSTREL 14 S Gouch 5-10-12	S McNeill
3	0.5	DIFFICULT DECISION 15 Mrs M Jones 5-10-12	D Byrne
4	000-	EL CORDOBES 178 W Jenks 5-10-12	T Jenks
5		FAITHFUL HAND Mrs S Smith 6-10-12	R Guest
6		PACIFIC RIDGE Mrs M Jones 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
7	35-P	WINTER ROSE 112 M Sneddon 5-10-12	B Powell
8	0U0-	AYDISUN 175 R Curtis 4-10-10	D Morris
9	P0P-	INSIOUXBORDINATE 136 R Juckes 4-10-10	Gary Lyons
10	4033	SEVEN WELLS 32 J Peacock 4-10-10	R Bellamy
11	403-	COME ON PENNY 127 (F) D Gandolfo 5-10-7	M Dwyer
12	030-	VALLINGALE 306 Miss H Knight 5-10-7	J F Titley
13	0P0-	LADYMALORD 136 J Bosley 4-10-5	I Lawrence

7-2 Come On Penny, 5-1 Difficult Decision, 6-1 Country Minstrel, 7-1 Vallingale, 8-1 Faithful Hand, 10-1 Seven Wells, 12-1 Pacific Ridge, 16-1 others

3.00 TOLLADINE HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,533: 2m 7f) (6)

1	614-	HAVE TO THINK 146 (F,S) P Nicholls 8-12-0	M A Fitzgerald
2	31-2	WISE APPROACH 106 (CD,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-12-0	S McNeill
3	F4R-	IFFEEE 148 (F,G,S) P Bowen 9-11-7	A Maguire
4	5-34	WHO'S TO SAY 53 (BF,F,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-11-4	Michael Brennan (5)
5	21-1	CERTAIN ANGLE 111 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-10-9	C Maude
6	06P-	COKENNY BOY 175 (F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-8	W Marston

2-1 Certain Angle, 11-4 Wise Approach, 7-2 Have To Think, 7-1 Cokenny Boy, 8-1 Iffeee, Who's To Say

3.35 W & P FOOD SERVICE NOVICES CHASE

(£3,884: 2m 7f) (10)

1	-212	DEFINITE MAYBE 14 (B,G) P Nicholls 6-11-5	A Maguire
2	4-12	LUCKY DOLLAR 16 (CD,F,S) K Bailey 8-11-5	A Thornton
3	P	BELLS WOOD 16 (S) A Dunn 7-10-12	S McNeill
4	6122	SIGMA WIRELESS 31 (BF,F,G) T Forster 7-10-12	S Wynne
5	22-1	STORMTRACKER 67 (F) C Weedon 7-10-12	M Richards
6	005-	WESTERLY GALE 173 N Henderson 6-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
7	3FF3	DORANS WAY 74 (G) Miss V Williams 5-10-8	Michael Brennan (5)
8	P-U4	FORT GALE 17 C Brooks 5-10-8	G Bradley
9	-042	OUR NIKKI 23 P Rodford 6-10-7	S Burrough
10	P2P-	WAR FLOWER 285 (G) A Carroll 8-10-7	W Marston

3-1 Sigma Wireless, 7-2 Lucky Dollar, 4-1 Definite Maybe, 5-1 Stormtracker, 6-1 Westerly Gale, 10-1 Dorans Way, 16-1 Fort Gale, 25-1 others

4.10 JOHN WHITT MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£4,923: 2m 4f) (7)

1	4-21	ECHO DE JANSER 83 (G) A Hobbs 4-11-12	Mr G Shenkin (7)
2	-311	FIELDRIDGE 14 (CD,F,G) M Muggeridge 7-10-13	B Powell
3	3-11	WOTTASHAMBLES 15 (CD,F) L Montague Hall 5-10-6	D Morris
4	031-	FREDDIE MUCK 310 (D,F,G) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-3	C Llewellyn
5	3211	SANTELLA BOY 17 (B,D,F) C Mann 4-10-1	J Railton
6	-001	HOLY JOE 21 (D,F,G,S) D Burchell 14-10-0	A Maguire
7	2224	LANCER 32 (F) R Juckes 4-10-0	W Marston

3-1 Fieldridge, 7-2 Wottashambles, 4-1 Echo De Janser, Santella Boy, 5-1 Freddie Muck, 10-1 Holy Joe, 20-1 Lancer.

4.45 EXCELNIR NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,082: 2m) (9)

1	2/0-	BRIDEPARK ROSE 212 (S) G McCourt 8-11-10	G Bradley
2	FF-0	MARTHA'S DAUGHTER 15 T Forster 7-11-9	A Thornton
3	-311	HARROW WAY 23 (D,F) L Wells 6-11-7	A Maguire
4	P-13	DUBELLE 17 (BF,F) J King 6-11-3	J Culloty
5	00-1	PRINCE SKYBURD 30 (D,F) Mrs P Avison 5-10-12	D Bridgwater
6	1223	SEAHAWK RETRIEVER 16 (F) P Nicholls 7-10-7	M A Fitzgerald
7	/20-	THE YOKEL 126 B Baugh 10-10-5	P Henley (5)
8	45P-	LAURA LYE 128 B De Haan 6-10-2	J Railton
9	6-34	SCRIPT 23 (F) J Jenkins 5-10-1	W Marston

9-4 Harrow Way, 3-1 Martha's Daughter, 5-1 Seahawk Retriever, 7-1 Dubelle, 8-1 Bridepark Rose, Prince Skyburd, 12-1 others.

5.15 LADBROKES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,824: 2m) (10)

1	22-3	AMAZE 33 (D,S) Lady Herries 7-12-0	Mr R Thornton (7)
2	-641	COOLEY'S VALVE 15 (CD,F) Mrs S Williams 8-11-6	Sophie Mitchell (5)
3	-434	SWINGS'N'THINGS 19F B Palling 4-10-11	R Farrant
4	23-5	FIERCE 100 (D,BF,F,G,S) J Jenkins 8-10-10	D Yellowlees (7)
5	2231	STRONG JOHN 14 (F,G) M Sowersby 8-10-10	D Parker (3)
6	BF3-	WAYFARERS WAY 172 N Henderson 5-10-9	M A Fitzgerald
7	01-5	HAMADRYAD 98 (D,F) Mrs V Ward 8-10-5	D Gallagher
8	-213	VERDE LUNA 19F (BF,F) D Arbuthnot 4-10-4	G Bradley
9	3-4F	PUSEY STREET BOY 49 (CD,F) J Bosley 9-10-0	I Lawrence
10	P00-	TIBBS INN 128 A Barrow 7-10-0	A Thornton

3-1 Wayfarers Way, 7-2 Amaze, 4-1 Cooley's Valve, 5-1 Verde Luna, 6-1 Strong John, 7-1 Fierce, 12-1 Hamadryad, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 7 winners from 22 runners, 31.8%; Miss H Knight, 12 from 38, 31.6%; P Nicholls, 11 from 42, 26.2%; K Bailey, 22 from 95, 23.2%; C Brooks, 6 from 28, 21.4%; C Weedon, 3 from 14, 21.4%; P Hobbs, 25 from 120, 20.8%; N Henderson, 6 from 41, 14.6%; Mrs J Pitman, 6 from 48, 12.5%; Mrs S Smith, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: M Dwyer, 5 winners from 20 rides, 25.0%; J Culloty, 5 from 23, 21.7%; G Bradley, 10 from 48, 20.8%; A Maguire, 22 from 136, 16.2%; D Bridgwater, 22 from 138, 15.9%; C Llewellyn, 18 from 116, 15.5%

RACING: SECOND DAY OF ASCOT FESTIVAL HEADS TOMORROW'S THREE PROGRAMMES

Red Camellia can deny favourite in Fillies' Mile

By Julian Muscat

THERE is a gilt-edged opportunity for punters who draw reassurance from familiar themes. Twelve months ago Henry Cecil landed the Fillies' Mile with a humble maiden winner, who went off an odds-on chance and won as she pleased. At Ascot tomorrow (3.50) Cecil attempts an encore with the likely favourite Sleepytime, whom he has already mentioned in the same breath as Bosra Sham.

Remarkably, Sleepytime contests this championship event just 11 days after seeing a racecourse for the first time. She faces a monumental task, yet a measure of Cecil's intent is evident from the man on her back. In normal circumstances Pat Eddery would be contemplating victory aboard Reams Of Verse, a stablemate of Sleepytime who routed a competitive field in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster. Yet Eddery has ditched Reams Of Verse for Sleepytime, whom he guided to an effortless victory at Sandown last week.

It is courting folly to oppose the daughter of Royal Academy, whose prospects would brighten under rain-darkened skies. As it is, however, Sleepytime, the second favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, should indeed be opposed. Cecil himself testified his filly jarred a shoulder on the gallops in July, and her powerful frame suggests that a demanding race on fast ground is the last thing she would relish.

TOMORROW'S RACING ON TELEVISION

Although Sleepytime boasts excellent acceleration, the emphasis tomorrow will be on staying power, particularly with Red Camellia in the line-up. **Red Camellia** races from the front, defying all-comers to match her raking stride. At Goodwood last month, she triumphed every bit as easily as did Sleepytime at Sandown — and from far stronger opposition. Khassah has each-way appeal but Red Camellia's free-running style offers the perfect antidote to Sleepytime's stinging finish.

Cecil: strong team

Cecil can also harbour worthwhile hopes for Besiege's chance in the GTECH Royal Lodge Stakes (2.35) over a mile. This brother to Armiger mastered a field resplendent with previous winners at Haydock and has a rugged outlook. Besiege would appreciate an easy surface but all ground comes alike to **Benny The Dip**, who had Desert Story behind when winning at Doncaster recently.

Desert Story reopposes on identical terms. The fact that connections are undeterred speaks volumes for the Doncaster form, and Benny The Dip can amplify the point at the expense of Medaaly. Equal Rights, whose penalty puts him up against it, offers a yardstick to the pecking order among juvenile colts.

Whatever his fate in the juvenile races, Cecil's strong team should not leave Ascot empty-handed. He saddles **Dacha** in the Tote Sunday Special Handicap (4.25) and the colt holds attractive each-way claims. In the inevitable rough and tumble, Dacha's prominent style of racing should serve him well and this improving individual can confirm his Haydock defeat of Romios on 6lb worse terms.

The Mail On Sunday Mile Final (3.10) has endless permutations, one of which might yield a front-running victory for **Sky Dome**. Drawn widest of all in stall 26, Sky Dome remains fairly handicapped and should have the far rail all to himself.

HAMILTON PARK TOMORROW

THUNDERER

2.15 Morning Star. 2.50 Allegro. 3.25 Bulsara. 4.00 Further Outlook. 4.35 Power Game. 5.10 Natural Key. 5.40 Red Tie Affair.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,377: 5f 4yd) (7 runners)

1	3	BISHOPS COURT 11 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	1
2	053	CHANGED TO BAILEYS 27 J Berry 9-0	J Fortune	6
3		FORCING BID M Prescott 9-0	M Fenton	7
4		TIPPERARY SUNSET J Quinn 9-0	D R McCabe	4
5	26	HURGILL LADY 10 J Watts 8-9	N Connorton	2
6	0	LIGHTNING BOLT 42 M Johnston 8-9	T Williams	5
7	0	MORNING STAR 10 M Johnston 8-9	J Weaver	3

4-6 Bishops Court, 4-1 Changed To Baileys, 7-1 Hurgill Lady, 10-1 Tipperary Sunset, 14-1 Lightning Bolt, 25-1 Forcing Bid, Morning Star.

2.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,631: 6f 5yd) (9)

1	2	ALLEGRO 42 (BF) D Loder 9-0	D R McCabe	6
2		CEE-N-K M Johnston 9-0	T Williams	1
3	6	TRAILBLAZER 23 C Thornton 9-0	D McKeown	4
4	0	YORKIE GEORGE 24 L Cumani 9-0	J Fortune	8
5	200	CURZON STREET 19 M Stoute 8-9	K Fallon	7
6	0-	FAIRY RING 10 R Whitaker 8-9	R Havlin (3)	2
7		PRINCESS ZARA M Johnston 8-9	J Weaver	9
8		SANG D'ANTIBES D Cosgrove 8-9	L Newton (5)	3
9	6	WALTZ TIME 10 Miss L Perratt 8-9	T Sprake	5

5-4 Allegro, 9-2 Princess Zara, 5-1 Trailblazer, 7-1 Cee-N-K, 10-1 Yorkie George, 12-1 Curzon Street, 14-1 others

3.25 LIZARS BINOCULARS HANDICAP

(£6,153: 1m 1f 36yd) (8)

1	6000	KI CHI SAGA 16 (B,G,S) J Dunlop 4-9-10	T Sprake	3
2	5210	ROYAL RESULT 16 (F) M Stoute 3-9-10	K Fallon	1
3	1216	DARLING CLOVER 11 (D,F,G) R Bastiman 4-9-9	H Bastiman (5)	2
4	-060	CONSORDINO 99 (G) L Cumani 3-9-8	J Fortune	7
5	1051	CELEBRATION CAKE 8 (C,F) Miss L Perratt 4-9-8	J Weaver	6
6	2104	KING CURAN 8 (V,C,F,G,S) D Haydn Jones 5-9-7	L Charnock	5
7	6400	FLYING NORTH 15 (F) Mrs M Reveley 3-9-1	G Lee (5)	4
8	1140	BULSARA 43 (D,F) C Fairhurst 4-8-6	D McKeown	8

3-1 Celebration Cake, 7-2 Darling Clover, 4-1 King Curan, 5-1 Bulsara, 6-1 Consordino, Royal Result, 8-1 others

4.00 TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,665: 1m 65yd) (7)

1	213	FURTHER OUTLOOK 22 (F) M Stoute 9-2	K Fallon	5
2	5621	IVAN LUIS 22 (D,F) M Bell 9-2	G Faulkner (5)	3
3	31	REDWING 34 (G) J Dunlop 9-2	T Sprake	4
4	1	WAITING GAME 20 (G) D Loder 9-2	D R McCabe	7
5	1201	BEN'S RIDGE 31 (F,G) P Haslam 8-11	J Fortune	6
6	310	QUINTELLINA 17 (F) L Cumani 8-11	J Weaver	1
7	10	THE IN-LAWS 17 (F) M Prescott 8-11	M Fenton	2

3-1 Redwing, 4-1 Further Outlook, 9-2 The In-Laws, 5-1 Ivan Luis, Waiting Game, 6-1 Ben's Ridge, Quintellina

4.35 CHIMS CLAIMING STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,050: 1m 65yd) (12)

1	-000	BASHTHEBOARDS 115 J Quinn 9-3	G Parkin (5)	11
2	0215	CD SUPER TARGETING 115 (G) M Channon 9-2	T Sprake	9
3	3010	POWER GAME 9 (B,D,F) J Berry 9-1	J Fortune	2
4	0400	TOLEPA 10 J J O'Neill 8-12	K Fallon	1
5	0062	WESTERN VENTURE 25 (F) J Payne 8-11	M Fenton	10
6	0450	TERMON 31 (D,G) Miss L Perratt 8-10	J Weaver	8
7		INCHELLA Miss L Perratt 8-8	N Kennedy	12
8	3604	LA FINALE 8 (B) D Nicholls 8-8	J Bramhill (7)	4
9	0154	MYSTIC TIMES 27 (C,F,G) B Mactaggart 8-6	D McKeown	6
10	6400	CERISE 82 (B) W Elsey 8-4	P Fessey (5)	3
11	0030	HARSH TIMES 29 (B,G) T Easterby 8-4	L Charnock	5
12	0-00	ROYAL RIGGER 26 C Smith 8-2	N Varley (3)	7

9-2 Western Venture, 5-1 La Finale, 6-1 CD Super Targeting, Mystic Times, 7-1 Power Game, 10-1 Cerise, Inchella, 12-1 others

5.10 RACING CHANNEL SATURDAY SERVICE HANDICAP

(£4,038: 5f 4yd) (15)

1	0120	PAGEBOY 3 (CD,F,G) P Haslam 7-9-10	J Fortune	7
2	4021	MANOLO 11 (B,F) J Berry 3-9-7	S Whitworth	13
3	3150	NATURAL KEY 8 (C,D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 3-9-7	L Charnock	14
4	5032	HOH MAJESTIC 6 (V,D,F,G) M Wane 3-9-0	M Fenton	6
5	0000	SILK COTTAGE 13 (V,D,G) R Whitaker 4-9-0	D McKeown	12
6	3200	SIX FOR LUCK 10 (D,F) D Nolan 4-9-0	T Sprake	8
7	5000	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 10 (D,BF,F,G,S) D Nicholls 5-8-13	J Bramhill (7)	15
8	2442	DOMMELLE 13 (D,F) T Easterby 4-8-12	R Havlin (3)	3
9	1230	KALAR 10 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 7-8-12	J Weaver	4
10	2250	MY CHERRYWELL 115 (V,D,G,S) L Lloyd-James 6-8-11	C Lowther (7)	2
11	6060	CRAIGIE BOY 29 (V,C,G,S) N Bycroft 6-8-7	K Fallon	1
12	0040	SUNDAY MAIL TOO 10 (CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 4-8-2	N Kennedy	10
13	0-00	NEVER SAY SO 54 C Smith 4-7-13	N Varley (3)	9
14	6005	KABCAST 27 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 11-7-13	P Fessey (5)	11
15	6005	COOLOWEN FLASH 13 (D,F) J Eyre 5-7-11	T Williams	5

5-1 Dommelle, 6-1 Manolo, Hoh Majestic, 7-1 Natural Key, Pageboy, 8-1 Kalar, 10-1 Stephensons Rocket, 12-1 others.

5.40 PETER GRANT TESTIMONIAL HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £3,318: 1m 4l 17yd) (12)

1	0-65	POETIC DANCE 23 J Dunlop 9-7	T Sprake	4
2	-006	PRELUDE TO FAME 15J Miss M Milligan 8-11	J Weaver	8
3	400	SILVRETTA 15 A Stewart 8-11	S Whitworth	12
4	4046	THE BOOZING BRIEF 20 (B) M Jarvis 8-8	P Bloomfield	6
5	4403	ROAD RACER 11 Mrs J Ramsden 8-4	K Fallon	7
6	0306	RED TIE AFFAIR 5 M Bell 8-4	M Fenton	11
7	6541	CONTRACT BRIDGE 34 (G,S) C Thornton 8-1	A McCarthy (7)	9
8	4503	THE BUTTERWICK KID 8 (G) R Fahey 7-10	L Charnock	10
9	6400	MOST WANTED 8 J J O'Neill 7-10	D Wright (3)	1
10	3310	RAGTIME COWGIRL 8 (D,F) D Nolan 7-10	P Fessey (5)	5
11	0000	BALLYKISSANGEL 8 N Bycroft 7-10	N Varley (3)	2
12	5608	PHILGEM 8 C Fairhurst 7-10	N Kennedy	3

7-2 Contract Bridge, 6-1 Poetic Dance, Ragtime Cowgirl, 7-1 The Butterwick Kid, Red Tie Affair, 8-1 Road Racer, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Stewart, 7 winners from 9 runners, 77.8%; M Jarvis, 4 from 12, 33.3%; M Bell, 12 from 37, 32.4%; M Prescott, 11 from 38, 28.9%; J Watts, 3 from 12, 25.0%; M Stoute, 3 from 12, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: S Whitworth, 6 winners from 16 rides, 37.5%; J Weaver, 41 from 154, 26.6%; J Fortune, 20 from 111, 18.0%; R Havlin, 9 from 52, 17.3%; T Williams, 11 from 71, 15.5%; D McKeown, 24 from 162, 14.8%.

NEWTON ABBOT TOMORROW

THUNDERER

2.30 He's A King. 3.05 Better Bythe Glass. 3.35 Gilston Lass. 4.10 Kesanta. 4.45 Charged. 5.15 Corrin Hill.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.30 PAULINE TRUNDLE NOVICES CHASE

(£3,940: 2m 5f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	F3-1	IMPERIAL VINTAGE 94 (F) Miss V Williams 6-11-5	N Williamson
2	U00-	HE'S A KING 147F (F) C Popham 6-10-12	T Dascombe (3)
3	6446	KING'S SHILLING 15 (F,G,S) H Oliver 9-10-12	Jacqui Oliver
4	333-	LANSDOWNE 149 (S) P Nicholls 8-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
5	1/0-	PONGO WARING 225 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-10-12	J F Titley
6	534-	RIVER GALA 174 R Hodges 6-10-12	R Dunwoody

5-4 Lansdowne, 7-2 Imperial Vintage, 5-1 Pongo Waring, 7-1 King's Shilling, 8-1 River Gala, 10-1 He's A King.

3.05 PARTYFARE LTD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,928: 3m 3f) (12)

1	P01-	BETTER BYTHE GLASS 125 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-12-0	D Walsh (3)
2	0-34	STORM DRUM 17 (B,F,G,S) K Bailey 7-11-10	T J Murphy
3	40-2	FOX CHAPEL 39 (G,S) R Juckes 9-11-8	M A Fitzgerald
4	4-60	AUVILLAR 22 (V,C,F,G,S) J Parfitt 8-10-11	C Llewellyn
5	-0P4	GUNMAKER 45 (G,S) B Llewellyn 7-10-10	N Williamson
6	.140	DANE ROSE 16 (F,G) M Sheppard 10-10-5	A Maguire
7	P00-	SNOWY LANE 144 (B,G,S) J Neville 8-10-2	J Culloty
8	-654	PRUDENT PEGGY 17 (S) R Frost 9-10-1	J Frost
9	P5P-	MERRYHILL MADAM 137 P Bradley 7-10-0	T Eley
10	4445	COEUR BATTANT 18 (F) R Baker 6-10-0	B Powell
11	3U54	HIZAL 13 (F) H Manners 7-10-0	A Dowling (7)
12	R0-5	DRAGONMIST 15 D Burchell 6-10-0	Miss E J Jones (7)

5-2 Better Bythe Glass, 3-1 Storm Drum, 9-2 Fox Chapel, 6-1 Gunmaker, 12-1 Auvillar, Prudent Peggy, 14-1 Coeur Battant, 16-1 others

3.35 IN TOUCH RACING LTD HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,775: 3m 2f 110yd) (10)

1	41-1	RAINBOW CASTLE 25 (CD,G) P Nicholls 9-12-0	P Hide
2	P40-	TIPP MARINER 120 (G,S) O Sherwood 11-11-12	J Osborne
3	4-PP	BANNTOWN BILL 8 (F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-9	D Bridgwater
4	315-	ITS A SNIP 174 (B,D,G,S) C Mann 11-11-5	R Dunwoody
5	4U-4	SAN GIORGIO 15 (B,F,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Llewellyn
6	-062	GILSTON LASS 25 (F,G) J King 9-11-3	J Culloty
7	256-	FOXGROVE 141 (F,G) R Price 10-10-8	B Fenton
8	3-53	L'UOMO PIU 13 (V,F,G,S) A Barrow 12-10-5	B Powell
9	2-34	MANOR BOUND 16 (F) Mrs S Williams 6-10-4	S McNeill
10	55F3	BOXING MATCH 18 (C,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-1	N Williamson

7-4 Rainbow Castle, 4-1 Gilston Lass, 6-1 Tipp Mariner, 7-1 San Giorgio, 8-1 Its A Snip, 10-1 Banntown Bill, 12-1 Foxgrove, 14-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME TOMORROW: Ascot: 3.10 Serendipity 5.35 Ta Awun. Hamilton Park: 3.25 Ki Chi Saga 5.10 Craigie Boy. 5.40 The Boozing Brief

4.10 LAVIS MEDICAL SYSTEMS NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,814: 2m 6f) (10)

1	4212	IDIOM 25 (CD,F) Mrs J Retter 9-11-5	J Culloty
2	0/	BALLYHAYS 373F N Ayliffe 7-10-12	W McFarland
3	4-	GARRYNISK 198 D Gandolfo 6-10-12	D Fort (3)
4	50	LATE ENCOUNTER 39 B Llewellyn 5-10-12	Guy Lewis (3)
5	00-2	BASIL STREET 16 C Mann 4-10-10	R Dunwoody
6	050-	DTOTO 20F R Baker 4-10-10	B Powell
7	420-	HAND WOVEN 199 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-10	C Llewellyn
8	P3P	FLASHMANS MISTRESS 127P J Bradley 5-10-7	B Fenton
9	2/U	KESANTA 13F (BF) W G M Turner 5-10-7	J Power (7)
10	400-	KONGIES MELODY 300 K Bishop 5-10-7	M A Fitzgerald

6-4 Hand Woven, 7-2 Basil Street, 9-2 Garrynisk, 6-1 Idiom, 12-1 Dtoto, Kesanta, 25-1 others.

4.45 J C MILTON ELECTRICALS HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,451: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1	21-1	HERBERT BUCHANAN 17 (CD,F,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-10	J Culloty
2	146-	CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 167 (F,G,S) D McCain 10-11-9	A Maguire
3	4F-3	CHARGED 113 (BF,F,G) P Hobbs 7-11-9	R Dunwoody
4	P/35	WINGSPAN 22 (CD,F,G,S) A Newcombe 12-11-6	A Thornton
5	231-	MILLIES OWN 347 (F,G) P Hobbs 9-11-5	G Tormey (3)
6	-422	FENWICK 17 (F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-0	T Dascombe (3)
7	PP45	SEAL KING 17 (G,S) Mrs J Retter 11-10-9	T J Murphy
8	-P21	BIT OF A TOUCH 25 (C,G,S) R Frost 10-10-8	J Frost
9	023-	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 125 (F,G) B Llewellyn 8-10-8	B Powell
10	536P	GABISH 18 (F,G) B Scriven 11-10-0	Mr R Thornton (7)

5-2 Herbert Buchanan, 3-1 Millies Own, 6-1 Charged, 7-1 Fenwick, 8-1 Bit Of A Touch, Crafty Chaplain, 10-1 Northern Optimist, 12-1 others.

5.15 DEVON AND CORNWALL BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,801: 2m 1f) (7)

1	24-2	CORRIN HILL 15 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-10	T Dascombe (3)
2	232/	TORDO 493 (B,CD,F) C Mann 5-11-8	J Magee (3)
3	4243	SIRTELIMAR 25 (D,F,G) K Bailey 7-11-2	T J Murphy
4	360-	MINSTER'S MADAM 162 (V,D,S) J Neville 5-10-13	W Marston
5	P34-	LUCAYAN GOLD 421 (CD,F,G,S) K Bishop 12-10-10	R Dunwoody
6	000-	ZINGIBAR 148 (S) J Bradley 4-10-2	N Williamson
7	0-60	ATHENIAN ALLIANCE 36 J Bradley 7-10-0	B Fenton

2-1 Sirtelimar, 3-1 Corrin Hill, 5-1 Tordo, Lucayan Gold, 6-1 Minster's Madam, 8-1 Zingibar, 20-1 Athenian Alliance.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 41 winners from 138 runners, 29.7%; A Newcombe, 9 from 32, 28.1%; D Burchell, 6 from 22, 27.3%; M Pipe, 85 from 340, 25.0%; P Nicholls, 27 from 109, 24.8%; C Mann, 4 from 17, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 56 winners from 181 rides, 30.9%; G Tormey, 5 from 19, 26.3%; N Williamson, 15 from 60, 25.0%; J Osborne, 13 from 54, 24.1%; B Fenton, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Bridgwater, 26 from 113, 23.0%.

ASCOT TOMORROW

THUNDERER

2.00 Ricky Ticky Tavie
2.35 Besiege
3.10 Master Beveled
3.50 Reams Of Verse
4.25 At Liberty
5.00 **DOUBLE QUICK** (nap)
5.35 Balalaika

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 **RED CAMELLIA**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Ricky Ticky Tavie. 3.50 **SLEEPYTIME** (nap). 5.35 Time Allowed.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 SUNDAY CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O: £12,544: 7f) (11 runners)

101	(2)	1	SUNBEAM DANCE 19 (D,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0	L Dettori	97
102	(6)		CYBERTECHNOLOGY (W Gredley) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	–
103	(11)		E-MAIL (C Coutts) J Eustace 8-11	R Cochrane	–
104	(4)	2	KAHAL 19 (H Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11	R Hills	▣
105	(5)		MANDILAK (H H Aga Khan) L Cumani 8-11	O Urbina	–
106	(1)		PURCHASING POWER (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8-11	M J Kinane	–
107	(9)		RICKY TICKY TAVIE (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 8-11	W R Swinburn	–
108	(10)		SHAHBOOR (Mana Al Maktoum) M Stoute 8-11	K Darley	–
109	(8)		TRULY PARCHED (W Armitage) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	–
110	(7)		URSA MAJOR (K Blake) P Kelleway 8-11	M Roberts	–
111	(3)	3	FURNISH 18 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	Pat Eddery	97

BETTING: 3-1 Sunbeam Dance, 7-2 Furnish, 4-1 Kahal, 6-1 Ricky Ticky Tavie, 8-1 Shahboor, 10-1 others

1995: STORY LINE 8-8 D Holland (16-1) B Hills 8 ran

2.35 GTECH ROYAL LODGE STAKES

BBC2

(Group II: 2-Y-O colts and geldings: £69,330: 1m rnd) (8 runners)

201	(6)	2131	EQUAL RIGHTS 29 (D,F,G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	96
202	(6)	23431	AIR EXPRESS 10 (F) (M Obaida) C Brittain 8-11	B Doyle	▣
203	(3)	211	BENNY THE DIP 18 (G) (Landon Knight) J Gosden 8-11	W R Swinburn	94
204	(4)	11	BESIEGE 22 (D,F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-11	Pat Eddery	91
205	(7)	12	DESERT STORY 18 (S) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 8-11	M J Kinane	91
206	(1)	211	MEDAALY 30 (D,F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-11	L Dettori	92
207	(2)	21312	RECONDITE 29 (F) (P Savill) M Channon 8-11	K Darley	96
208	(5)	3211	STATE FAIR 44 (F,G) (R Richards) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	86

BETTING: 5-2 Medaaly, 3-1 Benny The Dip, 7-2 Besiege, 5-1 Equal Rights, 8-1 Air Express, Desert Story, 10-1 State Fair, 12-1 Recondite

1995: MONS 8-11 L Dettori (7-2) L Cumani 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

EQUAL RIGHTS beat RECONDITE (3lb better off) 1½l in group III Futurity Stakes at the Curragh (1m, good to yielding). AIR EXPRESS beat Grand Lad 1¾l in conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, good to firm). BENNY THE DIP beat DESERT STORY 1½l in conditions race at Doncaster (7f, good). BESIEGE beat Sandstone head in conditions race at Haydock (1m, good to firm). MEDAALY beat Imperial President 3½l in conditions race at Sandown (1m, good). STATE FAIR beat In Question 1¼l in listed race at Newbury (7f, good).
Selection: BENNY THE DIP

3.10 MAIL ON SUNDAY MILE FINAL

BBC2

(Handicap: £29,700: 1m str) (26 runners)

301	(2)	205010	AMRAK AJEEB 24 (D,F,G,S) (A Merza) B Hanbury 4-10-0	M Rimmer	92
302	(8)	2-20116	HAL'S PAL 15 (B,BF,G) (W Said) D Loder 3-9-0	L Dettori	97
303	(26)	160011	SKY DOME 35 (D,F,G) (Miss D Merson) M Tompkins 3-8-13	M Henry (3)	97
304	(24)	220250	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 15 (F,G) (Sandmoor Ltd) T Easterby 5-8-11	M Birch	94
305	(19)	2-00410	MOSCOW MIST 50 (D,F) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) Lady Herries 5-8-9	D O'Shea	94
306	(10)	213301	REBEL COUNTY 9 (D,F,G,S) (Showtime Ice Cream) A Bailey 3-8-9	K Darley	96
307	(11)	400305	SERENDIPITY 15 (B,F) (J Darby) J Dunlop 3-8-9	T Quinn	93
308	(16)	002531	SUE'S RETURN 11 (D,F,S) (A Morton) A Jarvis 4-8-8	M J Kinane	96
309	(14)	024431	ADMIRALS FLAME 36 (D,F,S) (Hintlesham Racing) C Wall 5-8-8	G Duffield	96
310	(18)	344113	JERRY CUTRONA 38 (D,F,G) (M Hill) N Callaghan 3-8-7	Pat Eddery	95
311	(17)	300351	SEVENTEENS LUCKY 25 (D,F,G) (D Cameron) Bob Jones 4-8-7	N Day	97
312	(15)	400002	MO-ADDAB 8 (CD,F,G,S) (S Hammond) A Stewart 6-8-5	M Roberts	94
313	(3)	000510	DARYABAD 12 (B,D,F,G) (C & M Racing Ptnrs) T Naughton 4-8-4	G Carter	92
314	(1)	350003	CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 8 (F,G,S) (Grandy Girls) M Channon 6-8-3	P P Murphy (5)	98
315	(6)	102101	AUTUMN COVER 16 (D,F) (G Alexander) P Hedger 4-8-3	D Biggs	95
316	(4)	343310	BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 32 (D,F,G) (B & Westwood) W Musson 7-8-2	G Hind	94
317	(23)	304000	ERTLON 11 (D,F,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 6-8-2	B Doyle	96
318	(13)	02-0060	ZAJKO 35 (D,F) (R Gibbs) Lady Herries 6-8-1	F Lynch (3)	90
319	(12)	060231	PRIDE OF PENDLE 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) D Nicholls 7-8-0	A McGlone	▣
320	(9)	321133	TALATHATH 11 (V,D,F,G) (Mrs C Rawson) C Dwyer 4-8-0	J Quinn	94
321	(5)	000312	EMBANKMENT 15 (D,F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 6-7-13	S Sanders	97
322	(21)	005456	RON'S SECRET 11 (D,F,S) (R Davey) J Payne 4-7-12	G Bardwell	95
323	(22)	043600	CONFRONTER 11 (D,G,S) (Hadleid Ltd) S Dow 7-7-12	C Rutter	92
324	(25)	450600	MASTER BEVELED 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 6-7-11	J F Egan	95
325	(20)	064000	MIHRIZ 35 (F) (Normandy Developments) R Akehurst 4-7-10	Martin Dwyer (5)	90
326	(7)	124152	PRESENT SITUATION 35 (D,F) (C Hoorn) Lord Huntingdon 5-7-10	Iona Wands (7)	90

Long handicap: Mihriz 7-9, Present Situation 7-3.

BETTING: 8-1 Sky Dome, 10-1 Admirals Flame, 12-1 Sue's Return, 14-1 Hal's Pal, Rebel County, Mo-Addab, Ertlon, 16-1 others

1995: MO-ADDAB 5-8-13 M Roberts (25-1) A Stewart 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMRAK AJEEB beat Fahim ½l in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good) on penultimate start. HAL'S PAL 3½l 6th of 11 to Decorated Hero in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). SKY DOME beat PRESENT SITUATION (6lb worse off) head in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good) with SUE'S RETURN (1lb better off) 1½l 3rd, MASTER BEVELED (8lb better off) about 3l 6th, CONFRONTER (7lb better off) 9½l 9th, SERENDIPITY (4lb better off) 1l 10th, ZAJKO (7lb better off) neck 11th. MIHRIZ (5lb better off) 1l 12th and AUTUMN COVER 7l 13th. MOSCOW MIST beat Mezaale short-head in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to firm), with SUE'S RETURN (2lb better off) 2¼l 5th. SERENDIPITY about 4¼l 5th of 17 to Clifton Fox in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2l 60yd, good to firm) with MASTER BEVELED (2lb better off) 1½l 9th. MO-ADDAB 1¼l 2nd of 16 to Artful Dane in handicap at Newbury (1m, good to firm).
Selection: HAL'S PAL

3.50 FILLIES MILE

BBC2

(Group I: 2-Y-O: £91,840: 1m rnd) (8 runners)

401	(4)	163	GRETEL 17 (S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-10	W R Swinburn	91
402	(5)	161	KHASSAH 20 (C,D,F) (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 8-10	R Hills	88
403	(6)	402	LOGIC 10 (W Gredley) C Brittain 8-10	L Dettori	83
404	(3)	430	MRS MINIVER 17 (L Huxley) P Kelleway 8-10	M Roberts	71
405	(1)	12	OVATION 29 (BF,F) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-10	T Quinn	84
406	(2)	211	REAMS OF VERSE 17 (D,F,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-10	M J Kinane	96
407	(7)	111	RED CAMELLIA 35 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 8-10	G Duffield	▣
408	(8)	1	SLEEPYTIME 11 (F) (Greenbay Stables Ltd) H Cecil 8-10	Pat Eddery	90

BETTING: 11-10 Sleepytime, 11-4 Red Camellia, 3-1 Reams Of Verse, 8-1 Khassah, 12-1 Gretel, 20-1 others

1995: BOSRA SHAM 8-10 Pat Eddery (10-11 fav) H Cecil 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

KHASSAH beat OVATION 1¼l in a match for a conditions race at Bath (1m, good to firm). LOGIC head 2nd of 11 to Bandore in a maiden at Lingfield (7f 140yd, firm). MRS MINIVER 3¼l 3rd of 8 to Medaaly in a maiden at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). OVATION beat REAMS OF VERSE neck in an 11-runner maiden at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with LOGIC neck 4th. REAMS OF VERSE beat Dame Laura 2l in the 11-runner May Hill Stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with GRETEL head 3rd and MRS MINIVER 25l 11th. RED CAMELLIA beat Fernanda 6l in the 5-runner group III Crowson Prestige Stakes at Goodwood (7f, good). SLEEPYTIME beat Tough Act 5l in a 15-runner maiden at Sandown (7f, good to firm).
Selection: RED CAMELIA

4.25 TOTE SUNDAY SPECIAL HANDICAP

BBC2

(£44,740: 1m 4f) (20 runners)

501	(15)	020160	SON OF SHARP SHOT 42 (CD,F,G,S) (Windflower Inc) J Dunlop 6-9-10	K Darley	86
502	(3)	2-65620	LEONATO 22 (G) (C Booth) P Evans 4-9-8	J F Egan	88
503	(14)	2-05130	BETTER OFFER 39 (CD,F) (Mrs W Sarner) G Harwood 4-9-6	M J Kinane	86
504	(11)	031325	SHEER DANZIG 22 (F,G) (R Arculli) R Armstrong 4-9-4	M Hills	92
505	(17)	3/4-2141	DACHA 22 (D,F) (Cliveden Stud) H Cecil 4-9-3 (4ex)	Pat Eddery	95
506	(4)	114123	BEAUCHAMP JADE 18 (D,F,G) (E Penser) H Candy 4-9-2	G Carter	96
507	(7)	65/0212-	ZARALASKA 486 (D,G) (Fittocks Stud) L Cumani 5-9-0	O Urbina	93
508	(8)	0460-03	XORAMBI 114 (D,F) (G Vaak) C Brittain 4-9-0	B Doyle	89
509	(12)	001352	DAUNT 16 (BF,F,G) (Lord Harrington) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	94
510	(6)	1-21611	ARABIAN STORY 24 (D,F,G) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-11 (4ex)	D Harrison	96
511	(10)	330-603	WHITECHAPEL 8 (CD,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8-8-10	W R Swinburn	94
512	(9)	3-11063	DANCE SO SUITE 39 (D,F,G,S) (J Gutlan) P Cole 4-8-10	T Quinn	90
513	(5)	0210-42	POLYDAMAS 138 (BF,F) (A Christodoulou) M Stoute 4-8-8	J Reid	90
514	(19)	001003	TIME FOR ACTION 16 (D,F,G) (Mrs G Smith) M Tompkins 4-8-7	M Henry (3)	92
515	(18)	300105	AT LIBERTY 8 (F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 4-8-6	Dane O'Neill	90
516	(16)	032362	ROMIOS 22 (G,S) (C Shiacolas) P Cole 4-8-6	C Rutter	▣
517	(13)	0-00211	WILLIE CONQUER 16 (D,F,G) (R Toomi) R Akehurst 4-8-6 (4ex)	S Sanders	89
518	(1)	040554	REMAADI SUN 8 (D,F) (T Barker) M Usher 4-8-5	R Street	89
519	(20)	021030	LAKELINE LEGEND 39 (F) (J Sung) M Jarvis 3-8-5	Emma O'Gorman	90
520	(2)	002306	MY LEARNED FRIEND 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Roberts) A Hide 5-8-5	A McGlone	91

BETTING: 6-1 Arabian Story, 7-1 Dacha, 8-1 Beauchamp Jade, 10-1 Whitechapel, Zaralaska, 12-1 Better Offer, 14-1 others

1995: TAUFAN'S MELODY 4-9-1 R Cochrane (20-1) Lady Herries 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

BETTER OFFER 2l 3rd of 9 to Salmon Ladder in listed handicap at Goodwood (1m 4l, good to firm) with SON OF SHARP SHOT (2lb better off) 9l 6th. DACHA beat ROMIOS (6lb better off) ½l in 12-runner handicap at Haydock (1m 4l, good to firm) with REMAADI SUN (7lb better off) 11¾l 5th. WHITECHAPEL (4lb better off) 5¼l 8th, LEONATO (4lb better off) 1l 10th and TIME FOR ACTION (5lb better off) tailed off last. BEAUCHAMP JADE 6¾l 3rd of 6 to Eva Luna in group III Stones Bitter Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster (1m 6l 132yd, good to firm). Earlier ¾l 2nd of 21 to Clerkenwell in Tote Ebor (Handicap) at York (1m 6l, good) with REMAADI SUN (3lb better off) 2½l 5th, BETTER OFFER (4lb better off) 1½l 7th, MY LEARNED FRIEND (3lb better off) 3½l 10th, TIME FOR ACTION (2lb better off) 9½l 15th and LAKELINE LEGEND (5lb better off) short-head 16th. DAUNT ¾l 2nd of 13 to Spillo in handicap at Doncaster (1m 4l, good to firm) with TIME FOR ACTION 2l 3rd. ARABIAN STORY beat Quakers Field 2½l in 11-runner handicap at York (1m 4l, good). WHITECHAPEL 6l 3rd of 12 to dead-heaters Isifa and Ballynakelly in handicap at Newbury (1m 5l 161yd, good to firm) with REMAADI SUN 3l 4th. WILLIE CONQUER beat Wild Rita neck in 5-runner rating related stakes at Goodwood (1m 4l, good to firm).
Selection: DACHA

5.00 ASCOT RATED HANDICAP

(£15,854: 5f) (17 runners)

601	(16)	504035	LOCH PATRICK 18 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss E Collar) M Madgwick 6-9-7	J Reid	88
602	(12)	233015	CROFT POOL 18 (D,F,G) (Countrywide Classics Ltd) J Glover 5-9-7	G Carter	89
603	(15)	010000	SEA DANE 18 (F) (Canal Gold Connections) P Harris 3-9-4	W R Swinburn	92
604	(9)	330501	CROWDED AVENUE 29 (D,F,G) (T Wellard) P Makin 4-9-4	Pat Eddery	▣
605	(14)	21236	SPEED ON 18 (D,F) (P Deal) H Candy 3-9-4	C Rutter	85
606	(2)	111600	TO THE ROOF 57 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-1	G Hind	89
607	(7)	202023	AMAZING BAY 9 (D,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-9-0	T Quinn	90
608	(17)	851300	BOWDEN ROSE 9 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs C Ward) M Blanshard 4-8-12	J Quinn	92
609	(1)	004060	THAT MAN AGAIN 18 (B,D,F,G) (J Duffy & R Duffy) G Lewis 4-8-9	K Darley	89
610	(10)	000500	DOUBLE QUICK 18 (D,F,G,S) (The Hon E Beckett) M Johnston 4-8-9	M Roberts	94
611	(13)	43-1100	MIDNIGHT ESCAPE 18 (CD,F,G) (M Ayers) C Wall 3-8-9	N Carlisle	90
612	(4)	3-60050	ASTRAC 57 (C,F,G,S) (C Titcomb) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-7	M Hills	89
613	(3)	030000	TAKADOU 29 (D,F,G,S) (Exors of F Tyldesley) Miss L Siddall 5-8-7	M J Kinane	88
614	(5)	1-60412	SAMWAR 38 (BF,G) (Maygain Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-7	R Cochrane	94
615	(6)	014450	BOLSHOI 8 (B,CD,F) (Mrs D Brown) J Berry 4-8-7	Emma O'Gorman	95
616	(11)	013011	BOLD EFFORT 8 (V,F,G,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-7	B Doyle	90
617	(3)	321400	DUEL AT DAWN 28 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-6	L Dettori	91

Long handicap: Takadou 8-6, Samwar 8-6, Bolshoi 8-5, Bold Effort 8-4, Duel At Dawn 8-1

BETTING: 4-1 Samwar, 6-1 Crowded Avenue, 7-1 Bold Effort, Amazing Bay, 12-1 Speed On, Croft Pool, 14-1 others.

1995: SPANIARDS CLOSE 7-8-11 M J Kinane (7-1) P Makin 13 ran

5.35 HARVEST STAKES

(Listed race: fillies: £24,623: 1m 4f) (10 runners)

1	(1)	520002	ELLIE ARDENSKY 22 (F,G) (Snailwell Stud Ltd) J Fanshawe 4-9-0	W R Swinburn	82
2	(5)	211-264	RUSSIAN SNOWS 18 (D,F,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-0	M J Kinane	90
3	(3)	32-3114	ALTAMURA 34 (BF,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-9	L Dettori	85
4	(4)	2-24104	ALESSANDRA 50 (D,G) (D Deal) B Hills 3-8-6	M Hills	82
5	(7)	15202	BALALAIKA 12 (F) (Helena Springfield Ltd) L Cumani 3-8-6	O Peslier	94
6	(2)	350043	HONEST GUEST 21 (G) (I Lochhead) M Tompkins 3-8-6	T Quinn	95
7	(8)	62-14	INCHYRE 12 (G) (A Oppenheimer) R Charlton 3-8-6	D Harrison	94
8	(10)	2113	PLACE DE L'OPERA 71 (D,F,G) (Cliveden Stud) H Cecil 3-8-6	Pat Eddery	91
9	(9)	2130	TA AWUN 22 (B,C,BF,F) (H Al Maktoum) A Stewart 3-8-6	R Hills	89
10	(6)	0-21222	TIME ALLOWED 18 (D,F) (R Barnett) M Stoute 3-8-6	J Reid	▣

BETTING: 5-2 Time Allowed, 3-1 Russian Snows, 5-1 Honest Guest, 6-1 Altamura, 8-1 Balalaika, 10-1 Place De L'Opera, 12-1 others

1995: SPOUT 3-8-9 Pat Eddery (8-1) R Charlton 9 ran

IN BRIEF

End of the towpath for Searle brothers

DAVID TANNER, a month into his new job as Britain's international rowing manager, has learnt that the Searle brothers, Greg and Jonny, gold medal-winners in a pair in Barcelona in 1992 and bronze medal-winners in a four in Atlanta this year, are to part company.

Greg will try his hand at international sculling while Jonny is to concentrate on his legal career. Steve Gunn, the Searles' coach, is to work in New Zealand from next January.

Bugno's stage

Cycling: Gianni Bugno, of Italy, won the twentieth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday. His uphill attack towards the end of the 204-kilometre stage gave him victory by six seconds from Tony Rominger, of Switzerland. Alex Zülle, the overall leader, starts the 44km time-trial at Segovia today with 4min 22sec in hand and should secure victory in Madrid tomorrow.

Last chance

Football: The England women's team must overturn a 2-1 deficit against Spain at Prenton Park tomorrow to reach the European championship finals next summer. The match is effectively a last chance for the old guard of Debbie Bampton, Gillian Coultard, Hope Powell and Kerry Davis.

ENGLAND (probable): P Cope (Millwall Lionesses); D Bampton (Croydon), K Few (Arsenal), B Easton (Liverpool), T Mapes (Croydon), G Coultard (Doncaster Belles), S Williams (Arsenal), K Burke (Liverpool), K Smith (Wembley), H Powell (Croydon), K Davis (Croydon).

Caddick stays

Cricket: Andy Caddick, the England fast bowler, is to sign a new contract with Somerset after accepting an improved offer to stay with the county. The move ends speculation linking him with Glamorgan, Hampshire and Sussex.

Smith through

Tennis: Samantha Smith, 24, the British No 3, reached the semi-finals of the Challenger event in Limoges yesterday by beating Sandra Kleinova, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

GOLF: MONTGOMERIE FORCED TO DIG DEEP AS PAYNE AND ROCCA SET PACE

Scot finds fortitude to survive on merit

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

COLIN MONTGOMERIE demonstrated why he is one of the world's best golfers in the second round of the Smurfit European Open yesterday afternoon. At the K Club, south-west of Dublin, when he experienced the full force of the rain and wind, the big Scot faced one of those moments when his fortitude was tested to the full. When he fell to five over par with four holes to play, he had to decide: do I fight or do I flee?

He could have thrown in the towel, puzzled at the way that his putts would not drop and unaccustomed to having the highest score in his threesome, seven strokes worse at that point than Paul Broadhurst, who would finish with a 65 that equalled the course record. Montgomerie is in the middle of a run of ten successive tournaments and at that moment the appeal of a flight from Dublin back to his home in Surrey for an unexpected couple of days off must have been considerable.

Sandrine Mendiburu, of France, leads the field at the halfway stage of the German Open in Hamburg after a second successive 69, four under par, yesterday. Rachel Hetherington, of Australia, and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, are a shot behind with Dale Reid, of Great Britain, on 140 after a second round 72.

Instead, Montgomerie responded admirably by making birdie at two of his last four holes for a 74. This was good enough to ensure that he plays four rounds of this tournament even though, at three over par, he is ten strokes behind the joint leaders, Jim Payne, the Englishman who won a tournament in Italy at the beginning of May, and Costantino Rocca, the Italian who won a tournament in England at the end of May. Rocca, 70 yesterday, and Payne, 69, are both seven under par.

"My motivation was Ian Woosnam," Montgomerie said as he reflected on his Houdini-like escape from the halfway cut that would have presented Woosnam with a chance of closing the financial gap between them at the top of the order of merit. Woosnam moved one stroke ahead of Montgomerie after a 72.

"I will say this," Montgomerie went on. "Whether I win this year or not I will not pursue the order of merit next year. Four in a row is quite enough for myself, my wife, my caddie and my children. They have all been under pressure. I will not chase it so hard. I will set my schedule and stick to it."

So much for the main agenda in this tournament. One hidden agenda was to follow the fortunes of several lesser lights as they struggled to win the £48,000 thought to be necessary this season to keep them among the leading 115 players and ensure their presence at tournaments as often as they wanted in 1997.

One such is Stephen McAllister, a regular on the European Tour for nearly ten years. McAllister lies 114th in the order of merit and needs every penny that he can get to boost the £43,000 that he has amassed. Having missed the cut by one stroke at Loch Lomond last week, a 76, four over par, was a bad start here, and the pressure was on him to play well yesterday and give himself a chance of a decent payday tomorrow. His pulse was racing as he faced a three-foot putt for a 71.

To his relief, he made it, and a smile broke out over his owlish features. "The tough part is trying not to make mistakes and let the swing flow at the same time," McAllister said. Niclas Fasth, who needs £20,000 to secure his card, found it even harder than McAllister. His 76 was ten strokes worse than his first round.

Michael McLean has won £8,000 less than McAllister, thus the strain on him was greater. McLean was level par with three holes remaining when the pressure hit him with the force of a punch to the solar plexus. He took a six on the par-four 16th, bounced back with a birdie two on the 17th only to throw away another shot on the last.

"I am not so worried for myself," McLean, 33, said. "It's the youngsters I feel for. If I have to go back to the qualifying school, I will; and, if I mess up there, maybe a year out won't be a bad thing. It's your confidence that suffers. I have been playing all right, but, when you don't get the results, your confidence goes."

ALLSPORT

Rocca shows his exasperation after missing a birdie putt at the 16th yesterday

DUBLIN DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADING QUALIFIERS: 137: C Rocca (It) 67, 70; J Payne 68, 69. 138: M A Martin (Sp) 69, 69; P Broadhurst 73, 65; P Harrington 65, 73. 139: R Davis (Aus) 69, 70; A Coltart 71, 68. 140: R Russell 70, 70; D Robertson 70, 70. 141: R Chapman 72, 69; P-U Johansson (Swe) 71, 70; R Burns 72, 69; M Welch 69, 72; M Tunnicliff 68, 73. 142: P O'Malley (Aus) 69, 73; R Muntz (Holl) 74, 68; G Nicklaus (US) 71, 71; A Lyle 73, 69; B Langer (Ger) 71, 71; N Fasth (Swe) 66, 76; A Cabrera (Arg) 66, 76; L Westwood 70, 72; P Haugsrud (Nor) 71, 71; M A Jiménez (Sp) 72, 70; M Jonzon (Swe) 68, 74; J Heggarty 72, 70; A Bossert (Switz) 71, 71. 143: J Coceres (Arg) 72, 71; D Chopra (Swe) 73, 70; T Bjorn (Den) 74, 69; D Higgins 73, 70; B Lane 70, 73; A Hunter 72, 71; D Carter 74, 69; J Spence 73, 70; P McGinley 70, 73; P Mitchell 73, 70; T Lehman (US) 74, 69; B Cooper 76, 67; S Strüver (Ger) 73, 70.

The race is on to discover meaning of life

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

A MARATHON took place in the town of Rugby. After it had ended, it was time to consider the important questions that it raised. What, in short, does it all mean?

"Shri Ramesh Mehta of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Mumbai, in India, and a very dynamic personality himself and the Chief Dignitary, explained that sport has always been central to the Hindu Way of Life. Lord Hanuman, God of Sports, performed superhuman tasks in his life while serving the premier incarnation of God of Hindus, Lord Rama, with humility and devotion. Lord Hanuman is an example for all sportsmen of today to show how to serve society without selfish motives."

Stirring stuff from a report that landed on my desk, filled with details of the Hindu Marathon (in fact a half-marathon, but Hanuman is not a character to be associated with half-measures). The women's event was won by Miss L Leelamma, who, running barefoot, finished in 1hr 18min, despite having only had 36 hours in which to acclimatise herself from the 35C temperatures of her home. John Kipyator, of Kenya, won the men's event.

There is a tale of Hanuman, the monkey god, in which Rama asks him to fetch a certain plant from a mountain. Hanuman, arriving at the mountain, was unsure which plant to collect. So he brought Rama the whole mountain.

Is this a story that gets to the very heart of sport? Greetings from this column to the organisers and paricipants of the event, "the marathon for peace and unity".

Driving ambition

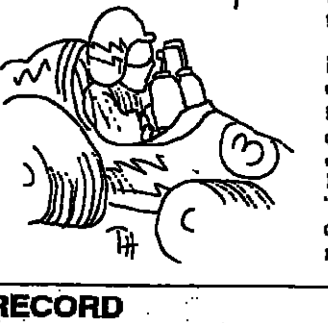
You know that moment when you look out of the car window and see the suffering face above the luminous lycra, and you say: "Well, old chap, I do rather think you have taken the wrong option. Cycling doesn't really look like a great deal of fun."?

Well, Greg LeMond agrees. The three-times winner of the Tour de France, from the United States, has gone over to motor racing. He will drive in the American Formula Ford 2000 Pro Series.

"I missed that action," he said. "I'm a racer. I don't care for the training in bike racing. I don't miss that; but you don't need to do that kind of training to race a car."

The series is part of the ladder that leads to IndyCar racing. "It's too soon to be thinking about anything like that," LeMond said. "I don't know where my potential is. I just know I'm pretty hooked on the sport."

Wild dreams, one suspects. Can anyone think of an elite athlete whose second sporting career has actually worked out?


He used to be in cycle racing
TH

Final score?

Time for an update on José Luis Chilavert, goalie and friend of this column, who was banned from playing footie for 13 months by a court in Argentina as retribution, so some would believe, for scoring a goal from a free kick as Paraguay drew 1-1 with Argentina in a World Cup qualifier. He now plans to leave Argentina, because he fears being attacked.

"It hurts a lot of people that a Paraguayan can be as popular as me," he said. "They think we should just be on building sites or cleaning houses." Chilavert has been sold by his Argentinian club, Velez Sarsfield, for $3.8 million [about £2.5 million] — not to another club, but to his agent, Michel Basilevich. The ban applies only to Argentina — Chilavert is free to play anywhere else. He has scored four goals for his club this year, two from penalties, two from free kicks. Can it be long before Chelsea make an offer?

Brief encounter

You are probably familiar with the American joke about Joseph Lipshitz, who changed his name — to Frank Lipshitz. The venerable Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami has undergone two name changes of late. After the death of Robbie, the man for whom the stadium was named, the place was taken over by the Pro Player corporation and the name changed to Pro Player Park.

This sounds all right, unless you happen to know, as all America does, that Pro Player is a brand of underwear. The Robbie family were appalled that the name was changed at all, and were especially upset at having Joe's baby named after a pair of drawers. So Pro Player backed down. The place is henceforth to be known as Pro Player Stadium.

Ends in tears

And now a grim one, about the Argentine footballer, Claudio Canniggia, perhaps the wearer of the longest hair in international football history. His mother, Nelida Tomasa Iglesias, has committed suicide by throwing herself from the fifth floor of a building.

Canniggia is now with Boca Juniors. Like Diego, he has had problems with drugs, but the people of Buenos Aires are inclined to blame his wife, the former model Mariana Nannis, for family troubles that led to the suicide.

Mariana has said of her in-laws: "They think Versace is a dish." Some would consider this a compliment, though she clearly meant it to sting. She is obviously a person of Philip Larkin's persuasion, adding: "I taught him everything. No one has done my husband more harm than my in-laws."

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

ENGLAND'S NEW BOY WONDER

READ THE INTERVIEW THEY ALL WANTED ONLY IN THE

NEWS OF THE WORLD

ATHLETICS

McColgan aiming to seize half-chance

LIZ McCOLGAN will try to provide Great Britain with its first global title of the year tomorrow, now that she has recovered from the insect bite that blighted her Olympic Games challenge (David Powell writes). The British Athletic Federation (BAF), though, is still feeling its summer sting.

The BAF council meets today to consider a second successive year of financial losses. The bleak position will be put to the council in Birmingham at the end of a summer in which British attendance figures were low and the entertainment value of BAF meetings poor.

The ITV contract is at an end and it is understood that it has offered coverage next year only if the rights are provided free. On the BAF agenda today is "the future funding of British athletics", with Britain facing reductions in the size of teams that it sends to international championships and the fees that it pays its athletes for domestic appearances. The federation is looking at alternatives to the way that it organises and promotes its meetings and will reduce the number that it stages.

The half-marathon world championships in Palma, Majorca, tomorrow are the last in the International Amateur Athletic Federation 1996 world series. McColgan, seeking to regain the title that she won in 1992, finished sixteenth in the Olympic marathon after an insect bite infected her blood. Two weeks ago, she won the Great North Run half-marathon in 70min 28sec and her most likely challenger tomorrow is Zola Pieterse, who won the South African title.

The quality of the entry in Palma hardly merits a world title, but British athletics, in its present state, will be grateful if McColgan wins.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, second leg: Liverpool 3 MyPa-47 1 (Liverpool win 4-1 on agg); Nyva Vinnytsya (Ukr) 0 Sion (Switz) 4 (Sion win 6-0 on agg); Varteks Varazdin (Cro) 2 Lokomotiv Moscow (Russ) 1 (2-2 on agg; Lokomotiv win on away goal). Chemlon Humenne (Slovakia) 1 AEK Athens (Gr) 2 (Athens win 3-1 on agg); Ruch Chorzow (Pol) 0 Benfica (Por) 0 (Benfica win 5-1 on agg). Olimpia Ljubljana (Slovenia) 0 Aarhus (Den) 0 (1-1 on agg, Olimpia win on away goal). AEK Larnaca (Cyp) 0 Barcelona (Sp) 0 (Barcelona win 2-0 on agg). Sparta Prague (Cz) 1 Sturm Graz (Austria) 1 (3-3 on aggregate, Prague win on away goals); Brann Bergen (Nor) 4 Cercle Bruges (Bel) 0 (Bergen win 6-3 on agg); PSV Eindhoven (Holl) 3 Dynamo Batumi (Georgia) 0 (PSV win 4-1 on agg); Kispest Honved (Hun) 1 Nimes (Fr) 2 (Nimes win 5-2 on agg); Paris Saint-Germain (Fr) 3 Vaduz (Liech) 0 (PSG win 7-0 on agg). Fiorentina (It) 1 Gloria Bistrita (Rom) 0 (Fiorentina win 2-1 on agg). AIK Stockholm (Swe) 1 KR Reykjavik (Ice) 1 (Stockholm win 2-1 on agg); Galatasaray (Tur) 4 Constructor (Mol) 0 (Galatasaray win 5-0 on agg). Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 4 Kaiserslautern (Ger) 0 (aet; 1-0 after 90min, Belgrade win 4-1 on agg)

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Second round draw: Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) v AEK Athens (Gr); Barcelona (Sp) v Red Star Belgrade (Yug); Galatasaray (Tur) v Paris Saint-Germain (Fr); FK Brann (Nor) v PSV Eindhoven (Holl); Fiorentina (It) v Sparta Prague (Cz); FC Sion (Switz) v Liverpool, Nimes (Fr) v Solna (Swe), Benfica (Por) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Russ).

☐ First leg on October 17, second leg on October 31.

UEFA CUP: Second round draw: Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v Boavista (Por); Legia Warsaw (Pol) v Besiktas (Tur); Slavia Prague (Cz) v Valencia (Sp); SV Hamburg (Ger) v Spartak Moscow (Russ). Vitoria Guimaraes (Por) v Anderlecht (Bel). SC Karlsruhe (Ger) v AS Roma (It). Helsingborgs IF (Swe) v Neuchâtel Xamax (Switz). Espanol (Sp) v Feyenoord (Holl); FC Bruges (Bel) v National Bucharest (Rom). Borussia Mönchengladbach (Ger) v AS Monaco (Fr). Internazionale (It) v Casino Graz (Austria). Aberdeen v Brondby IF (Den). Metz (Fr) v Sporting Lisbon (Por). Ferencvaros (Hun) v Newcastle United, Schalke 04 (Ger) v Trabzonspor (Tur). Lazio (It) v Tenerife (Sp)

☐ First leg on October 15, second leg on October 29.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 3 Bolton 0, Sheffield Wednesday 2 Manchester United 1. First division: Blackpool 1 Huddersfield 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 0 Deal 0

SCHOOLS MATCHES: ESFA Fuji Film Trophy: Chesterfield 3 Lincoln 1; Kettering and Corby 0 South Northants 1; Bath and North East Somerset 7 Taunton 0; East Cornwall 6 Bridgwater 2, Mid Somerset 1 Plymouth 5

WORLD CUP: Qualifying competition: Asian zone: Group ten: Sri Lanka 3 Philippines 0

DUTCH LEAGUE: First division: RKC Waalwijk 0 Vitesse Arnhem 1

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Botafogo 1 Gremio 0

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP: First round, first leg: Boca Juniors (Arg) 3 Argentinos Juniors (Arg) 0 (in Buenos Aires): Flamengo (Br) 1 Independiente (Arg) (Flamengo win 1-0 on agg: in Brasilia)

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 7 Seattle 5: Boston 5 New York 3. Toronto 1 Baltimore 4, Texas 6 California 5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 12 Chicago 4: Houston 8 New York 2: Florida 7 Atlanta 1, Philadelphia 2 Montreal 5: San Francisco 6 Los Angeles 1.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Round-robin stage: Group A: Ulker Spor (Tur) 67 Chipita Panionios (Gr) 69. Limoges (Fr) 74 Stefanel Milan (It) 85: Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 77 CSKA Moscow (Russ) 78. Group B: Olympiakos (Gr) 96 Bologna (It) 80. Group C: Croatia Split (Cro) 73 Asvel Villeurbanne (Fr) 61. Group D: Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 76 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 72. Pau-Orthez (Fr) 85 Sevilla (Sp) 79 Dynamo Moscow (Russ) 64 Virtus Bologna (It) 78.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Twentieth stage (Avila to Palazuelos de Eresma, 209.5 kilometres): 1, G Bugno (It, MG Technogym) 5hr 14min 03sec, 2, T Rominger (Switz, Mapei) at 7sec, 3, M Apollonio (It, Scrigno) at 8sec, 4, K Hundertmark (Ger, Telekom), 5, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus), 6, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE), 7, R Julich (US, Motorola), 8, D Rebellin (It, Polti) all same time. Overall positions (after 20 stages): 1, Zülle 92hr 44min 29sec; 2, Dufaux at 4min 22sec; 3, Pistore at 7 13, 4, G Totschnig (Austria, Polti) at 8 37, 5, Rominger at 8 42

GOLF

HAMBURG: German Open: Leaders after two rounds (GB and Ire unless stated) 138: S Mendiburu (Fr) 69, 69. 139: M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 69, 70, R Hetherington (Aus) 69, 70. 140: M Hjorth (Swe) 67, 73, D Reid 68, 72. 141: H Wadsworth 71, 70, J Morley 69, 72. 142: L Brooky (NZ) 70, 72, E Orley (Switz) 72, 70. 143: P Meunier Lebouc (Fr) 68, 75; S Bennett 68, 75, D Barnard 72, 71, A Gottmo (Swe) 71, 72. 144: C Eliasson-Wharton (Swe) 71, 73; K Orum (Den) 71, 73, S Gronberg (Swe) 73, 71; S Dallongeville (Fr) 73, 71; K Larsson (Swe) 71, 73; J Leary (Aus) 71, 73, L Hackney 69, 75, V Michaud (Fr) 69, 75

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia: Buick Challenge: First round (US unless stated) 64: R Wadkins. 65: J McGovern. 66: D Love, M Bradley, L Mattiace, O Browne, S Cink. 67: M Hulbert, M Calcavecchia, L Janzen, P Azinger, W Ray Brown. 68: D Pooley, L Rinker, S Elkington (Aus), B Bryant, F Couples, S Gump, G Boros, M Standly, J Acosta, J Maginnes

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina: LPGA Tour event: First round (US unless stated) 65: R Hood. 67: H Kobayashi (Japan), T Johnson (GB), G Graham (Can), H Alfredsson (Swe). 68: M Will, K Tschetter, C Schreyer, D Pepper, M McGeorge, M Mallon, T Kerdyk, R Jones, M Estill, D Eggeling, D Andrews, K Saiki, P Hurst, C H Koch (Swe), W Doolan, L Benvenuti (Br). British: 70: C Pierce, C Matthew. 71: S Strudwick. 72: L Davies, H Dobson. 73: F Marshall. 74: S Maynor. 80: F Dunes

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke 2 Sheffield 5, Newcastle 6 Nottingham 2

SNOOKER

MOTHERWELL: Regal Masters: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt M Williams (Wales) 6-2; J Parrott (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-3

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Ipswich 50 Coventry 46; London 52 Long Eaton 43

CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Sheffield 41 Buxton 37

TENNIS

TELFORD: LTA satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Quarter-finals: Men: C Wilkinson bt A Richardson 6-4, 7-6. A Parmar bt A Vosand (Ger) 6-3, 7-6. R Koenig (SA) bt F Rovai (Swe) 6-2, 2-0, ret. J Fox bt O Fukarek (Cz) 6-4, 6-1. Women: N Egorova (Russ) bt L Ogan 6-2, 6-4. L Ahl bt L Woodroffe 6-1, 6-3. H van Aalderen (Holl) bt J Wood 6-3, 6-2. J Pullin bt A Janes 6-3, 3-6, 6-0

BASLE: Men's tournament: Second round: J Novak (Cz) bt B Becker (Ger) 6-3, 7-6. M Goellner (Ger) bt S Edberg (Swe) 7-6, 6-2. P Korda (Cz) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-4, 6-2. H Dreekman (Ger) bt M Larsson (Swe) 7-6, 6-3. M Tillstrom (Swe) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Dreekman bt Korda 7-6, 6-4. Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt Goellner 5-7, 6-4, 6-2

PALERMO: Men's tournament: Second round: K Alami (Mor) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-2, 6-3. J Burillo (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2. F Clavet (Sp) bt F Meligeni (Br) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; M Martelli (It) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 7-5, 6-2. Quarter-finals: J van Herck (Bel) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-4, 6-4; Martelli bt Burillo 6-3, 6-2. A Voinea (Rom) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-4, 6-2

[ممكنة من الأصل.]

Big spenders seek something that money cannot buy

ROB ANDREW

To suggest that the destiny of the second-division title will be settled by the game today between Richmond and Newcastle, and the return fixture later in the season, would be hugely disrespectful to Coventry (who have already taken a point off Richmond), London Scottish, Blackheath, Wakefield, Bedford — or any side which believes that it can exert an influence at the top of the table, but the game obviously attracts great attention and I welcome that.

It is exciting for the players; it helps in their development to feel that the spotlight is on them. These are two clubs who, in the new professional world, have been among the biggest spenders and are desperate to justify their outlay by winning promotion.

What this game may also examine is which of us is closer to establishing that intangible element which no money can buy, team spirit. The piece of paper that the players signed, which will pay their mortgage, has created new responsibilities on and off the field — when they train, how they conduct themselves — but you cannot create a successful team with a contract.

Richmond may have the more glamorous names among the forwards in Ben Clarke, Brian Moore and the Quinnell brothers, but, at Newcastle, we believe that everyone throughout the side knows that he has a contribution to make. That process began with our pre-season tour to South Africa and has been sustained through our three league games so far.

Of course, several key ingredients came together last season — Gary Armstrong, Tony Underwood and Doddie Weir for example. Gary is back to his old form: he is fit, enjoying his rugby and knows where the line is — he has already scored seven tries and is a threat to any defence, as we recognised when I was playing for England and he for Scotland.

However, there have been some influential newcomers. I doubt if there is a better ball-handling prop in the country than George Graham, and he is very quick over the ground, while Ross Nesdale gives us that typical New Zealand approach to the game. He understudied Sean Fitzpatrick in Auckland for four years, and captained the province on tour, so he has an excellent rugby brain and instinctively knows the right thing to do.

At the same time, we are all enjoying the more liberated approach to rugby. It has partly to do with professionalism, partly the new laws and partly the influence of the players, mostly from overseas, who have come into the English game. There are new grounds to visit, more spectators, a refreshing novelty to the game which is reflected in the way sides are playing.

That was why I was so disappointed after our first league game, against Waterloo, when there were 57 scrums and the referee never allowed the game to develop continuity. That was no use to us or Waterloo, and certainly not the spectators. The top referees talk to players, they coax the ball out of rucks without blowing the whistle, and the more that happens the better the game will be.

We made progress against Nottingham where, though we scored 74 points, we leaked 29, so to beat Blackheath by 61 points without reply was pleasing. The laws now allow sides to keep the ball for prolonged periods so defences have to be very tightly organised and I felt against Blackheath that we achieved that.

The Newcastle players themselves have taken to the professional era well. Several have an affinity with the North East anyway — Garath Archer and Andy Blyth, for example — but others, like Nick Popplewell, have become quickly recognised within the local community. Most of them are sensible enough to organise their spare time properly, too, looking for other qualifications which will make them better equipped for life after their professional sporting careers are over.

Today, though, the future holds only our meeting with Richmond. The players know the game's significance, but I have told them that this is not a two-horse race. It is only one game in a long season and already we have seen sides dropping points unexpectedly. I hope it is not to be our turn this week.

RUGBY UNION

Richmond certain off-field winners in clash of the cash

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

LABEL the second division game at Richmond Athletic Ground today what you will — clash of the cash or, more prosaically, Ben (Clarke) v Rob (Andrew) — but the game between Richmond and Newcastle has more than just league status hanging on it.

There will be 16 international players on the field, some of whom entertain justifiable hopes of representing the British Isles in South Africa next summer. The interest in the game is considerable and Richmond's capacity will be strained to the limits, creating just the kind of ambience that Ashley Levett was looking for when he invested his millions in the club last spring.

Even star-sprinkled Northampton and Harlequins can aggregate only 15 capped players at Franklin's Gardens, though, if you were to include Gary Connolly's rugby league honours, that might tilt the scales. That is where Ian McGeechan, the coach to the Lions, will be, but he has confirmed that selectors for the tour party have as wide a brief as possible.

"I don't think playing in the second division should affect the prospects of internationals," McGeechan said. "We will be watching a lot of games outside the internationals, to build up as full an information dossier on all the players as possible. Some of those players won't be playing first-division rugby."

McGeechan remains optimistic that the home unions will allow him to take more than 30 players, which would allow him to rest properly those coming out of a long and demanding domestic season. Australia plan to bring 32 to Great Britain and Ireland, if the number of internationals is confirmed at five. That saga, however, has taken yet another turn with the Australian Rugby Union pouring scorn on a suggestion by the home unions that they play a midweek international with England on December 3 or 4.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has enough on its hands already. Yesterday it repealed the 180-day player-registration requirement, though players contracted to overseas unions must still serve that residential qualification period. The RFU has also decided that no more than two players from outside Europe may be fielded in a competitive club match.

Meanwhile, a Lions tour, which Clarke, Andrew, Tony Underwood, Nick Popplewell and Brian Moore have already experienced, will seem a long way off today. Newcastle lead the second division, from which there is only one certain promotion place, while Richmond regret the loss of a point in the opening, drawn, game with Coventry.

Their only change from the XV that beat Bedford, another wealthy club, introduces Adam Vander to the flank ahead of Luc Jones, though, if Tom Whitford fails a fitness test, there will be a league debut for Allan Bateman, the former Wales centre. Newcastle restore Ross Nesdale at hooker ahead of Neil Frankland.

Among the elite of the first division, Harlequins introduce Robbie, the younger Paul brother, on the wing against Northampton, where he will oppose Nick Beal. At the other end of the table, Orrell host the clash of the Tuigamala brothers at Edge Hall Road. Va'aiga, the older and better known, appears for Wasps and family accord will be laid aside by Orrell's Lua, a more refined version of the rumbustious former All Black.

Martin Corry, the Bristol captain and England A flanker, went into hospital last night for an operation to repair a damaged cartilage. Robert Jones, the former Wales scrum half, takes over the club captaincy against Sale today.

The tug-of-war over Frano Botica, though, will not go away. Botica was named in the Orrell and Llanelli teams for the weekend, but it may be significant that the Welsh club has withdrawn him from the side to play Pontypridd. The dispute is in the hands of the Orrell solicitors and, until agreement is reached, Botica will not be able to complete his move south.

Gibbs could be back in the centre for Wales, adding to his 20 international caps, against Italy in Rome next month

Injuries prompt return to fold for Gibbs

By David Hands

SCOTT GIBBS, capped 20 times by Wales before leaving two years ago to play rugby league, is on the verge of becoming the first of the Welsh prodigals to return to international rugby union. He was named yesterday in the squad that will travel to Rome for the game against Italy on October 5.

Welsh plans to announce their match XV have been scuppered, however, by injuries received during the 40-33 defeat by France in Cardiff on Wednesday. Ieuan Evans and Nigel Davies will be missing and Steve Williams, the Neath No 8, is doubtful, while Jonathan Humphreys and Hemi Taylor must show that they have recovered from the injuries that kept them out against France.

"There is an opportunity for someone to get into the national side," Gibbs, the Swansea centre, said, referring to the injured Davies, though he will be aware that Dafydd James, of Bridgend, has been added to the squad and could well create a midfield pairing with Gareth Thomas, his club colleague.

"It has been a fairly arduous month for me," Gibbs said. "At the moment I'm struggling to get back into it, especially with the way we are trying to play at Swansea. I've had only six games so far and I need more under my belt." Swansea play Treorchy in the league today, surrendering pride of place to Bridgend, the leaders, who visit Cardiff.

"Some people are just waiting for our bubble to burst," James said, "but we are playing so well that we deserve the success we have had." Cardiff are forced by injuries to field Andrew Lewis, the Wales prop, at hooker, but restore Hill, Leigh Davies and Howley in the backs.

WALES SQUAD: W Proctor (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), D James (Bridgend), G Thomas (Bridgend), L Davies (Cardiff), S Gibbs (Swansea), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), P John (Pontypridd), C Loader (Swansea), J Davies (Neath), S John (Llanelli), J Humphreys (Cardiff), B Williams (Neath), M Voyle (Llanelli), G Llewellyn (Harlequins), H Taylor (Cardiff), K Jones (Ebbw Vale), M Williams (Pontypridd), S Williams (Neath).

HOCKEY

National service takes toll on clubs

By Sydney Friskin

ENGLISH clubs opening their campaign in the premier division of the National League tomorrow will have to do without Welsh and Scottish players involved in the World Cup qualifying tournament in Italy.

Cannock, the champions last year, are missing Edwards, Hughes-Rowlands, Organ and Ashcroft, the goalkeeper, for their home match against Havant. On top of that, both their manager, Martin Gilbody, and coach, Malcolm Wood, are unavailable.

Craig Parnham, who recently joined Cannock from Stourport, is likely to fill in for Edwards at full back and, with Crutchley, Mayer and Pidcock able to play, Cannock should have few problems up front. The young Havant side, which includes Jackson, from the England Under-21 squad, is without Giles.

Brett Garrard, who recently joined Guildford from Surbiton, is a doubtful starter for the home game against Barford Tigers. Guildford will miss two Welsh players — Markham, at forward, and Priday, the goalkeeper, who will be replaced by Johnston, from the Army.

East Grinstead, the recent winners of the Hampstead and Westminster Challenge Cup, have plenty of talent to call on for their home match against Southgate, including three newcomers in Bell, the former Oxford University captain, at full back, the half back, Hamilton, from Firebrands and Laird, a forward, from Oxford Hawks.

The injured Soma Singh is unlikely to play for Southgate, whose squad includes Gibbins, from Teddington, and Davis, formerly of St Albans. Duthie has rejoined Southgate from Surbiton as player-coach.

Old Loughtonians take on Hounslow at Chigwell without the Scotland trio of Seaton, Ralph and Hector. Hounslow have lost several experienced players, including Thompson and Hazlitt, but have found suitable replacements in Archer and Zak Jones, both from Bournville.

In the first division, Beeston are at full strength for the visit to Indian Gymkhana, and Doncaster, one of the more fancied teams in this division, play St Albans.

Over the past week several under-21 players have been registered with premier division clubs. Their aim is to earn selection for the Junior World Cup at Milton Keynes next September.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Sunderland
(2) Chelsea v Nottingham Forest
(3) Coventry v Blackburn
(4) Derby v Wimbledon
(5) Everton v Sheffield Wednesday
(6) * Leicester v Leeds
(7) Southampton v Middlesbrough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	7	5	2	0	16	5	17
Newcastle	7	5	0	2	10	7	15
Arsenal	7	4	2	1	15	8	14
Man Utd	7	3	4	0	16	6	13
Sheff Wed	7	4	1	2	9	9	13
Wimbledon	7	4	0	3	10	7	12
Aston Villa	7	3	3	1	8	5	12
Chelsea	7	3	3	1	10	9	12
Middlesbrough	7	3	2	2	14	9	11
Derby	7	2	4	1	8	8	10
Sunderland	7	2	3	2	6	4	9
Tottenham	7	2	2	3	6	6	8
West Ham	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
Leicester	7	2	2	3	5	9	8
Leeds	7	2	1	4	6	12	7
Everton	7	1	3	3	8	10	6
Nottm Forest	7	1	3	3	8	13	6
Coventry	7	1	1	5	3	13	4
Southampton	7	0	2	5	6	12	2
Blackburn	7	0	2	5	5	11	2

Nationwide League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Grimsby
(9) Birmingham v QPR
(10) * Bolton v Stoke
(11) Charlton v Oldham
(12) Crystal Palace v Southend
(13) Huddersfield v Reading
(14) Norwich v Tranmere
(15) Oxford Utd v Portsmouth
(16) Sheffield Utd v Manchester City
(17) West Bromwich v Ipswich

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	8	6	1	1	21	11	19
Barnsley	7	6	0	1	15	6	18
Norwich	8	5	2	1	9	4	17
Stoke	8	4	2	2	13	14	14
* Wolverhmptn	8	4	2	2	12	8	14
Crystal Palace	8	3	4	1	15	7	13
Tranmere	8	4	1	3	11	9	13
Ipswich	8	3	3	2	15	12	12
QPR	8	3	3	2	11	10	12
Man City	8	4	0	4	9	9	12
West Brom	7	3	2	2	12	11	11
* Swindon	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Sheff Utd	6	3	1	2	12	9	10
Huddersfield	7	3	1	3	12	11	10
Oxford Utd	8	3	1	4	11	8	10
Portsmouth	8	3	1	4	8	9	10
Birmingham	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Port Vale	8	1	5	2	6	8	8
Reading	8	2	1	5	10	20	7
Charlton	7	2	1	4	8	8	7
Southend	8	1	3	4	7	14	6
Bradford	8	2	0	6	6	14	6
Grimsby	8	1	2	5	8	18	5
Oldham	8	0	2	6	7	15	2

* not including last night's match

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Accrington, Barrow v Witton, Colwyn Bay v Blyth Sp; Knowsley v Buxton; Spennymoor v Runcorn. First division: Gretna v Lincoln U; Matlock v Harrogate T; Radcliffe v Worksop. Warrington v Droylsden.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield v Sutton U. First division: Basingstoke v Maidenhead U, Berkhamsted v Worthing; Leyton Penn v Whyteleafe; Walton and Hersham v Wokingham. Second division: Banstead v Chalfont St Peter. Bedford T v Dorking; Leatherhead v Hemel Hempstead; Leighton v Egham; Met Police v Barking. Tilbury v Ware; Wembley v Cheshunt; Windsor and Eton v Wivenhoe. Third division: Aveley v Hertford; Hornchurch v Harlow; Kingsbury v Clapton; Lewes v [illegible] Northwood v Southall.

Second division

(18) Brentford v York
(19) * Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield
(20) Burnley v Bristol City
(21) Crewe v Plymouth
(22) Luton v Blackpool
(23) Notts County v Wrexham
(24) Peterborough v Wycombe
(25) Preston v Millwall
(26) Rotherham v Bournemouth
(27) Shrewsbury v Watford
(28) Stockport v Gillingham
(29) Walsall v Bury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	8	6	2	0	16	6	20
Millwall	8	5	2	1	16	9	17
Watford	8	5	1	2	9	7	16
Chesterfield	8	5	1	2	6	4	16
Bury	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
Wrexham	8	4	3	1	12	9	15
Burnley	8	4	1	3	10	9	13
Crewe	8	4	1	3	10	9	13
Shrewsbury	8	3	4	1	9	8	13
Blackpool	8	3	3	2	7	7	12
Plymouth	8	3	2	3	13	13	11
Bristol Rovers	8	3	2	3	6	7	11
Bristol City	8	3	1	4	15	13	10
Gillingham	8	3	1	4	9	10	10
Luton	8	3	1	4	7	12	10
Bournemouth	8	3	0	5	8	10	9
Peterborough	7	1	5	1	10	10	8
York	8	2	2	4	9	11	8
Notts County	7	2	2	3	6	7	8
Stockport	8	2	2	4	8	8	8
Preston	8	2	1	5	6	9	7
Walsall	8	1	2	5	7	13	5
Wycombe	8	0	4	4	5	9	4
Rotherham	8	0	2	6	7	15	2

Third division

(30) Colchester v Doncaster
(31) Darlington v Fulham
(32) Exeter v Cambridge Utd
(33) Hartlepool v Chester
(34) Lincoln v Cardiff
(35) Mansfield v Hereford
(36) Northampton v Brighton
(37) Rochdale v Leyton Orient
(38) Scarborough v Wigan
(39) Scunthorpe v Barnet
(—) Swansea v Hull
(—) Torquay v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	8	6	0	2	12	7	18
Wigan	8	5	2	1	15	8	17
Carlisle	8	5	2	1	10	4	17
Hull	8	4	4	0	8	4	16
Chester	8	4	2	2	12	8	14
Cambridge Utd	8	4	2	2	11	10	14
Cardiff	8	4	2	2	8	7	14
Torquay	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Leyton Orient	8	3	3	2	7	4	12
Darlington	8	3	2	3	13	10	11
Hartlepool	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Scarborough	8	2	4	2	11	10	10
Barnet	8	2	4	2	8	4	10
Scunthorpe	8	3	1	4	6	10	10
Swansea	8	3	0	5	11	15	9
Brighton	8	2	2	4	9	14	8
Colchester	8	1	5	2	7	9	8
Lincoln	8	2	2	4	7	11	8
Exeter	8	2	2	4	7	12	8
Northampton	8	1	4	3	10	10	7
Hereford	8	2	1	5	5	9	7
Mansfield	8	1	4	3	4	9	7
Rochdale	8	1	3	4	5	10	6
Doncaster	8	1	2	5	6	10	5

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Bromsgrove v Slough
(—) Northwich v Macclesfield
(—) Telford v Altrincham

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell Utd v Odd Down; Brislington v Paulton Rovers; Chippenham v Barnstaple; Elmore v Calne; Mangotsfield v Chard; Westbury v Bristol Manor Farm.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Southend M; Bowers v Saffron W; Burnham R v Hullbridge, E Ham v Ford U; Gt Wakering v Concord;

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
(41) Dunfermline v Raith
(—) Hibernian v Hearts
(42) Motherwell v Kilmarnock
(43) Rangers v Celtic

First division

(44) East Fife v Stirling
(45) Falkirk v Airdrie
(46) Greenock Morton v St Mirren
(47) Partick v Clydebank
(48) St Johnstone v Dundee

Second division

(49) Ayr v Stranraer
(—) Clyde v Brechin
(—) Dumbarton v Stenhousemuir
(—) Hamilton v Queen of South
(—) Livingston v Berwick

Third division

(—) Alloa v East Stirling
(—) Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
(—) Montrose v Forfar
(—) Queen's Park v Albion
(—) Ross County v Caledonian Thistle

FA CUP: Second qualifying round: Billingham T v Workington; St Helens v Ossett T, Durham v Consett; Halifax v Bishop Auckland; Arnold v Flixton; Morecambe v Guiseley; Ashton U v Netherfield; Stalybridge v Ossett A; Winsford v Newcastle T; Frickley v Bradford PA; Gainsborough v Bridgnorth; Leek v Eastwood T; Hyde v Whitby; Farsley v Mossley; Burton v Stocksbridge PS; Southport v Emley; Marine v Sheffield; Leigh RMI v Billingham Syn; Bamber Bridge v Stapenhill; Atherton LR v Curzon Ashton; Lancaster v Blakenhall; N Ferriby v Bedlington Terr; Hinckley A v Bedworth; Kettering v Atherstone; Desborough v Bilston; Rushden and Diamonds v Gresley; RC Warwick v Tamworth; Hednesford v Evesham; Stourbridge v Knypersley; Solihull v Shepshed D; Sudbury v Spalding; Boston v Bishop's Stortford. Canvey Is v Grantham; Wroxham v Cambridge C; Wisbech v E Thurrock; Heybridge v Chelmsford; Billericay v Corby; Sudbury v Purfleet; Braintree v Halstead; Stevenage v Baldock; Potters Bar v Chesham; Hayes v Grays; Royston v Uxbridge; Dagenham and Redbridge v Harrow; Berkhamsted v Edgware; Aylesbury v Boreham Wood; Hampton v Stansted; St Albans v Yeading; Bracknell v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Farnborough v Carshalton; Herne Bay v Horsham; Welling v Dulwich; Hendon v Fisher; Dover v Aldershot T; Molesey v Tonbridge; Chertsey v Hastings; Croydon v St Leonards Stamcroft; Crawley v Bromley; Staines v Burgess Hill; Sittingbourne v Tooting and Mitcham; Witney v Wimborne; Fareham v Hungerford; Gloucester v Thatcham; Bashley v Thame U; Weymouth v Abingdon T; Cheltenham v Salisbury; Melksham v Cirencester T; Bath v Newport AFC; Trowbridge v Weston-super-Mare; Merthyr Tydfil v Torrington, Yeovil v Taunton; Clevedon v Tiverton.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: King's Lynn v Halesowen; Nuneaton v Gravesend and Northfleet. Midland division: Dudley v Moor Green; Raunds v Hinckley T; Redditch v Stafford; Sutton Coldfield v VS Rugby; Tamworth v Rothwell. Southern division: Dartford v Fleet T; Newport IoW v Margate; Waterlooville v Havant; Yate v Erith and Belvedere.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor v Briton Ferry; Caersws v Cemaes Bay; Carmarthen v Rhyl (2.0). Connah's Quay v Cwmbran; Conwy v Aberystwyth; Holywell v Newtown; Inter Cable-Tel v Llansantffraid; Porthmadog v Ebbw Vale; Ton Pentre v Flint; Welshpool v Barry (2.30).

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: London Colney v Toddington.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon U v Shortwood; Almondsbury v Kintbury; Brackley v Burnham; Didcot v Endeleigh; Fairford v Lambourn Sp. N Leigh v

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Cockfosters v Woodford; Croydon v Brimsdown; Ruislip M v Haringey; St Margaretsbury v Harefield; Tottenham Omada v Hillingdon B.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Netherne; Cobham v Bedfont; Corinthian-Casuals v Godalming and Guildford; Farnham v Westfield; Hartley Wintney v Merstham; Reading v Feltham; Sandhurst v Raynes Park Vale.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gorleston v Felixstowe P and T; Hadleigh v Gt Yarmouth; Harwich and Parkeston v Diss; Soham v Lowestoft; Stowmarket v Sudbury; Tiptree v Clacton; Warboys v Bury T; Watton v Newmarket; Woodbridge v March.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Eastleigh; Bemerton Hth v Brockenhurst; Downton v Totton; E Cowes v Bournemouth; Gosport v Aerostructures; Petersfield v Romsey; Portsmouth v Christchurch; Ryde Sp v BAT.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Whitehawk; Eastbourne T v Portfield; Hailsham v Mile Oak; Ringmer v Selsey; Saltdean v Shoreham; Southwick v Horsham YMCA; Three Bridges v Langney Sp; Wick v Hassocks.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Canterbury; Chatham v Corinthian; Crockenhill v Tunbridge Wells; Deal v Woolwich; Furness v Slade Green; Greenwich v Lordswood; Ramsgate v Faversham; Hythe v Cray; Sheppey v Folkestone Inv; Thamesmead v Whitstable.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Armthorpe Welf; Glasshoughton Welf v Hucknall; Hallam v Brigg T; Hatfield Mn v Thackley; Maltby MW v Pontefract Cols; Liversedge v Selby; Pickering v Belper T.

[illegible]

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Manchester Utd v Tottenham (4.0)
West Ham United v Liverpool

Nationwide League
First division

Port Vale v Bradford (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v Shelbourne (2.0); UCD v St Patrick's Ath (3.15). Shield competition: Northern section: St Francis v Monaghan (3.15). Southern section: Limerick v Galway (2.0)

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off, second leg: England (1) v Spain (2) (at Tranmere Rovers FC, 2.0).

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa v Wolverhampton; Blyth Spartans v Bronte; Bradford v Notts County; Garswood St Helens v Sheffield Wednesday; Huddersfield v Stourport. Southern division: Berkhamsted v Oxford Utd; Langford v Three Bridges; Leyton Orient v Town and County; Whitehawk v Ipswich; Wimbledon v Brighton and Hove.

RUGBY LEAGUE

TOUR MATCH: York President's XIII v Australian Aborigines (at York, 3.0)

ACADEMY CUP: Final: Castleford v St Helens (at Spotland, Rochdale, 3.30). Plate: Final: Oldham v Wakefield (at Spotland, 1.30).

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Havant (at Morris Ground, 2.30). East Grinstead v Southgate (at Saint Hill, 2.0). Guildford v Barford Tigers (at King's Manor School, 12.0); Old Loughtonians v Hounslow (at Chigwell, 1.30); Reading v Canterbury (at Sonning Lane, 2.0); Teddington v Surbiton (at Duke's Meadow, Chiswick, 12.0). First division: Hull v Harleston Magpies (at Hull University, 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v Beeston (at Thornbury Avenue, Isleworth, 2.30); Isca v Blueharts (at Exeter School, 1.30); Lewes v Bournville (at Southdown Club, 1.30); Oxford Hawks v Bromley (at Banbury Road, 2.0); Oxford University v Brooklands (at St Edward's School, 2.0); Sheffield v City of Portsmouth (at Abbeydale Park, 2.0); St Albans v Doncaster (at Clarence Park, 2.0); Stourport v Edgbaston (at Kidderminster School, 2.30); Trojans v Firebrands (at Stoneham Lane, 12.30); Warrington v Gloucester City (at Penketh County HS, 12.30).

AEWHA LEAGUE (2.30): Premier division: Balsam Leicester v Clifton; Hightown v Ipswich; Sutton v Doncaster; Trojans v Slough. First division: Blueharts v Bracknell; Bradford Swithenbank v Olton, Chelmsford Broadoak v Canterbury; Sunderland Bedans v Wimbledon.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Edinburgh Mile and Great Caledonian Run (at Edinburgh).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Manchester (6.0); Leicester v Derby (6.0). Newcastle v Thames Valley (5.30); Sheffield v Worthing (5.30); London Towers v Hemel and Watford (5.0)

GOLF: Smurfit European Open (in Dublin)

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-final, first leg: Manchester v Ayr (6.0).

MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championships (at Brands Hatch).

SAILING: Start of BT Global Challenge (Southampton).

SNOOKER: Regal Masters (at Motherwell).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Scottish Monarchs v Bradford (6.30). Conference League: Nathan Gaymer Memorial Fours Trophy: Sittingbourne v Arena Essex v Eastbourne v Reading (2.30). Individual: Bernie Klatt Memorial Trophy (at Mildenhall, 3.30).

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Telford).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Wootton; Cogenhoe v Eynesbury; Kempston v S&L Corby; Long Buckby v Bourne; M Blackstone v Newport Pagnell; N Spencer v Stamford; Potton v Holbeach; St Neots v Ford Sp; Wellingborough v Stotfold

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Shifnal; Boldmere St M v Rocester; Chasetown v Pershore; Oldbury v Stratford; Pelsall v Willenhall; Rushall v Halesowen; W Mids Police v Bloxwich.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Kenilworth; Bolehall v Studley BKL; Coventry Sphinx v Bilston CC; Highgate v Coleshill; Knowle v Worcester; Meir KA v Hendrahan Tbrs; Shirley v David Lloyd; Southam v Richmond SW; Wellesbourne v Kings Heath; W Mids Fire Service v M Ferguson.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge v West Ham (11.0); Chelsea v Gillingham (11.0); Ipswich v Fulham (11.0); Leyton Orient v Norwich (11.0); Millwall v Charlton (11.0); Portsmouth v Arsenal (10.30); QPR v Tottenham (10.45); Watford v Southend (11.0). Second division: Barnet v Bristol C (11.0); Bournemouth v Brentford (11.0); Crystal Palace v Brighton (11.0); Oxford v Southampton (11.0); Swindon v Colchester (12.0); Tottenham v Luton (11.0); Wimbledon v Reading (11.0); Wycombe v Bristol R (11.0).

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Crook v Seaham RS; Morpeth v Murton; Shildon v Guisborough; S Shields v Chester-le-Street; Stockton v RTM Newcastle.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine v Ards; Crusaders v Glenavon; Glentoran v Cliftonville; Portadown v Linfield. First division: Ballyclare v Omagh; Bangor v Ballymena; Distillery v Carrick; Newry v Larne.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Dundalk (7.30); Sligo v Bray (7.30). Shield competition: Southern section: Kilkenny v Cobh (7.15).

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley v Westfields; Darlaston v Lye; Ettingshall v Walsall Wood; Hill Top v Wolverhampton C; Malvern T v Wolverhampton U; Ludlow v Stafford T; Stourport v Brierley Hill; Tividale v Bloxwich; Wednesfield v Gornal.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Col v Darwen; Bootle v Burscough; Chadderton v Maine Rd; Clitheroe v Vauxhall GM; Eastwood H v Blackpool R; Glossop NE v Prescot; Kidsgrove v Holker OB; Nantwich v Salford; St Helens v Penrith; Trafford v Rossendale.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Crouch End v O Esthameians; NatWest v Carshalton; O Parmiterians v Norsemen; W Wickham v S Bank; Civil Service v Polytechnic; E Barnet OG v O Actonians; Lensbury v O Latymerians; O Salesians v Barclays; Kew Assoc v O Lyonian; Alexandra Pk v O Stationers; Lloyds v Cuaco; O Parkonians v Winchmore Hill; Reigate Pr v Alleyn OB; Broomfield v Ibis; O Bromleians v Midland; Merton v Brentham; O Owens v Southgate Oly; O Westminster Cits v Bank of England.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Nottsborough; Hale End v Wian; O Finchleians v Southgate Co; St Marys Col v Ulysses; Wandsworth v Parkfield. Senior two: City of London v Ealing Assoc; Mill Hill V v Hadley; O Grammarians v Hon Artillery Co; O Woodhouseians v O Simmarobians; UCL Acad v Westerns. Senior three: BBC v Duncombe Sp; Fulham Compton OB v Birkbeck Coll; London Welsh v Hampstead Heathens; O Bealonians v O Fairlopians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham OX v Kingsburians; Hamptonians v Aloysians; Ignatians v Glyn OB; Tenisonians v Meadonians; Vaughanians v C Manning. Senior one: Isleworthians v Danes; Suttonians v Phoenix; Tilinians v Manorians; Westhamians v Enfield OG; Wilsonians v Salvatorians

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Etonians v Lancing; Foresters v Witleians; Reptonians v Chigwellians. First division: Haberdashers v Bradfieldians; Malvernians v Wellingburians; Wykehamists v Harrovians.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30am unless stated): English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Southern area: Andover v E Berks; Brighton v Woking; Bromley v Sutton; Cambridge v Barnet; Gt Yarmouth v Norwich; Guildford v W Sussex; Maidstone v Ouse Val; N Kent v Croydon; Oxford v SW Dorset (12.0); Portsmouth v Poole; St Albans v Ely; S Beds v Islington and Camden; Southampton v White Horse (11.0); S London v N Herts; W London v Enfield; W Suffolk v Waltham For; Worthing v Medway. Midlands area: Aston v Warley (10.0); Birmingham v Bromsgrove and Droitwich (10.0); Erdington and Saltley v Coventry (10.0); Holland v E Riding; Mansfield v Hull; Mid-South Warwickshire v Burton (10.0); Northampton v S Notts; Scunthorpe v Derby; SE Lindsey v Grimsby; S Shropshire v Halesowen and Stourbridge (10.0); Telford v Shrewsbury (10.0); Wellingborough v Coalville; W Bromwich v Redditch (10.0); W Lindsey v Worksop, Worcester v Wolverhampton (10.0). Northern area: Bradford v York; Carlisle v S Northumberland; Chester-le-Street v Hartlepool; E Northumberland v Newcastle; Hambledon v Leeds; Harrogate v Sheffield; Kirkby Knowsley v Burnley; Liverpool v Mid Cheshire; Middlesbrough v Gateshead; N Tyneside v Stockton; Oldham v Halton; Preston v Chorley; Redcar and Cleveland v S Lakes; Scarborough v Rotherham; Sefton v Denbighshire (11.0); St Helens v Blackburn; S Ribble v Bolton; Spen Val v Doncaster; Sunderland v S Tyneside; Tameside v Macclesfield; W Lancs v Wigan; Wirral v Rossendale.

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Nottingham v Cardiff (7.0); Sheffield v Newcastle (7.0); Basingstoke v Bracknell (6.40)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v West Hartlepool
Leicester v Gloucester
London Irish v Saracens
Northampton v Harlequins
Orrell v Wasps
Sale v Bristol

Second division

Blackheath v Moseley
Nottingham v London Scottish
Richmond v Newcastle (2.15)
Rugby v Bedford
Wakefield v Rotherham
Waterloo v Coventry

Third division

Clifton v Liverpool St Helens
Fylde v Havant
Leeds v Exeter
London Welsh v Wharfedale
Lydney v Rosslyn Park
Morley v Otley
Redruth v Reading
Walsall v Harrogate

Fourth division north

Aspatria v Winnington Park
Hereford v Stourbridge
Manchester v Birmingham/Solihull
Nuneaton v Preston Grasshoppers
Sheffield v Sandal
Stoke-on-Trent v Lichfield
Worcester v Kendal

Fourth division south

Askeans v Henley
Camberley v Weston-super-Mare
High Wycombe v Berry Hill
Barking v Newbury
North Walsham v Charlton Park
Plymouth v Metropolitan Police
Tabard v Cheltenham

SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple v Camborne; Bridgwater v Launceston; Gloucester Old Boys v Brixham; Maidenhead v Torquay; St Ives v Salisbury; Stroud v Matson.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Guildford and Godalming v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Esher v Basingstoke; Ruislip v Harlow; Southend v Wimbledon; Norwich v Sutton and Epsom; Sudbury v Staines; Thurrock v Old Colfeians.

MIDLANDS: First division: Barkers Butts v Burton; Belgrave v Broad Street; Stafford v Mansfield; Stockwood Park v Leighton Buzzard; Syston v Leamington; Westleigh v Hinckley; Whitchurch v Derby; Wolverhampton v Camp Hill.

NORTH: First division: Broughton Park v Bridlington; Macclesfield v Widnes; New Brighton v Bradford and Bingley; Stockton v West Park Bramhope; Tynedale v Hull Ionians; Wigton v Sedgley Park.

Welsh League
First division

Caerphilly v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Cardiff v Bridgend (2.30)
Neath v Dunvant (2.30)
Newport v Newbridge (2.30)
Pontypridd v Llanelli (2.30)
Swansea v Treorchy (2.30)

Second division

Abercynon v Pontypool (2.30)
Blackwood v South Wales Police (2.30)
Bonymaen v Cross Keys (2.30)
Llandovery v Abertillery (2.30)
Cardiff Institute v Aberavon (2.30)
Ystradgynlais v Maesteg (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Builth Wells v Llanharan; Kenfig Hill v Merthyr; Narberth v Tenby Utd; Penarth v Mountain Ash; Tondu v Pyle; Tredegar v Rumney.

Tennents Premiership
First division

Currie v Boroughmuir
Jed-Forest v Stirling County
Melrose v Hawick
Watsonians v Heriot's FP

Second division

Biggar v West of Scotland
Dundee HSFP v Glasgow HK
Glasgow Acads v Gala
Kelso v Edinburgh Acads

Third division

Glasgow Southern v Stewart's Mel FP
Kirkcaldy v Preston Lodge
Musselburgh v Kilmarnock
Selkirk v Peebles

Fourth division

Ayr v Corstorphine
Gordonians v Hillhead/Jordanhill
Grangemouth v Langholm
Haddington v Glenrothes

Irish inter-provincial championship

Leinster v Munster
(at Donnybrook, Dublin, 2.30)
Ulster v Connacht
(at Ravenhill, Belfast, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

International match

Papua New Guinea v Great Britain
(at Lae, 6.30am)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Wigan St Patricks; Leigh Miners v Beverley; Lock Lane v Oldham St Annes; Saddleworth v Mayfield; Woolston v W Hull. First division: Askam v Thornhill; Barrow Is v Leigh East; Blackbrook v Walney C; Moldgreen v E Leeds; Oulton v Millom; Wigan St Judes v Eastmoor. Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Skirlaugh; Hull Dockers v Ovenden; Milford v Shaw Cross; Normanton v Featherstone Am; Redhill v Eccles.

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham v Reading; Bromley v Richmond; Hampstead/West v St Albans; Hounslow v Southgate, Maidenhead v Surbiton; Old Loughtonians v Teddington.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Harrogate; Chester v Timperley; Formby v Southport; Neston v Swalwell; Sheffield Bankers v Norton; Springfields v Ramgarhia.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Birmingham (7.30); Manchester v Leopards (7.30); Hemel and Watford v Chester (7.30); Thames Valley v Sheffield (8.0); Worthing v Crystal Palace (8.0).

BOXING: British heavyweight championship eliminator: Julius Francis (Woolwich, holder) v James Oyebola (Paddington) (at Barking).

GOLF: Smurfit European Open (in Dublin).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society; North of England: Premier division: Moorthorpe v Boardman and Eccles; Cheadle v Heaton Mersey; Old Waconians v Poynton; Cheadle Hulme v Stockport; Mellor v Timperley.

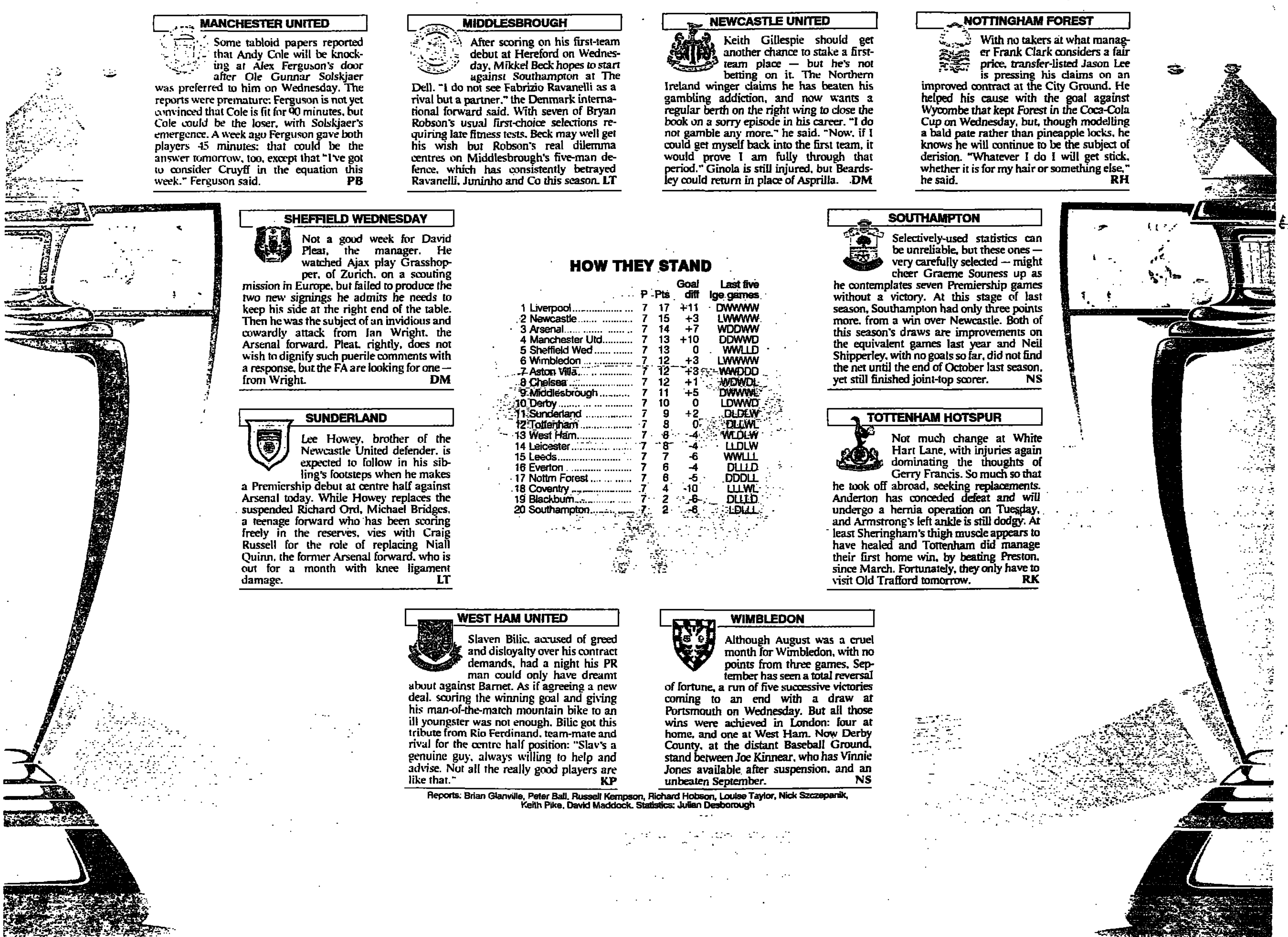
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championships (Brands Hatch).

SNOOKER: Regal Masters (at Motherwell)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Bradford (37) v Wolverhampton (59) (7.0). Premier League: Bradford v Long Eaton (8.30); Coventry v London (7.30); Swindon v Poole (7.30). Conference League: Berwick v Buxton (7.0).

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Telford)

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND



ARSENAL

Pat Rice, the caretaker manager, consoled himself after Arsenal's Uefa Cup defeat in Cologne by reflecting that if they beat Sunderland today, they could go top of the Premiership. The best news for Arsenal, the recovery of Tony Adams aside, is Paul Merson's well-deserved recall by England. He should have more chances to run at Sunderland's defence than he had in Cologne. The suspect defence seems good enough for Premiership games, if not in Europe. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Nigel Kennedy, the spiky-haired musician and claret-and-blue fanatic, has revealed another string on his bow. On Villa's fruitless Uefa Cup trip to Helsingborg in midweek, he turned out for the English press against the Swedish press. He fiddled about wide on the right, complementing the ambling skills of Trevor Brooking and he helped the brave Brits to recover from 3-1 down to triumph 7-3. Pity that poor Villa were unable to complete the win double. Cue violins . . . **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Blackburn still don't have many points, but their self-belief is returning. The visit to Coventry today is, according to Ray Harford, the manager, a game in which his side must translate confidence into results. It seems a strange assertion, but Harford believes he is not far short of a very good side. And he received support on that from an unlikely source this week. Kenny Dalglish believes Harford will get it right. They need goals, and Gallacher will partner Sutton in search of them. **DM**

CHELSEA

Roberto Di Matteo and Gianluca Vialli must be glad they are not still playing in Italy. An Italian club president would have fined his players after two such dreadful performances. And the defence, in which Leboeuf had seemed so coolly dominant, is now in pieces, whether it plays with three at the back or four. Ruud Gullit, his presence on the field so badly needed, can only look on and hope. One more display like the last two and Chelsea's fans will start voting with their feet. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Dion Dublin, the Coventry forward, may have inadvertently discovered a new role during the tempestuous Coca-Cola Cup victory over Birmingham on Tuesday. Dublin switched to centre back after Liam Daish had been sent off, for the second time this season, in the 76th minute. He was so successful in repelling the late Brummie charge that Gary McAllister, his captain, suggested that Ron Atkinson should consider offering him a permanent defensive slot. **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

The growing influence of Igor Stimac has become apparent this week. On Tuesday he replaced Robbie van der Laan as club captain, only to miss the Coca-Cola Cup game against Luton through a back problem 24 hours later. Whether Derby would have avoided aggregate defeat by the Nationwide League second-division side had Stimac played is debatable, but Jim Smith, the manager, said: "We have become used to him rescuing us at the back." He should return today. **RH**

EVERTON

The pressure mounts for Joe Royle and Everton. After their embarrassing defeat at York on Tuesday, the game with Sheffield Wednesday today is suddenly a very important one. Everton will have to search for their first win since the opening day without their two main strikers, Ferguson and Rideout, but they hope to have Short and Ebbrell back. "This is not the time to panic," Royle said this week. Cancellation of their day off signalled intent, but a defeat today could test the fans' patience. **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham has named a 21-man Leeds squad for today's game, one of the largest in Leeds's history. Among them is Wesley Boyle, who may come in for a full debut as both Hateley and Rush await fitness tests this morning. Graham, though, has been off watching European talent this week. He may find his solution nearer home, with Tomas Brolin making noises about returning — but if he was unable to satisfy Wilkinson, he is likely to find Graham a harder taskmaster. **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the manager, has had his problems with Jamie Lawrence but the latest warrants a pat on the back rather than disciplinary action. Does he introduce the winger against Leeds this afternoon after his performance in the Coca-Cola Cup against Scarborough, which ended when he was stretchered off with concussion after scoring? "Sometimes he disappears, and comes up with the most amazing excuses, but I have been very pleased with him lately," O'Neill said. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

Injuries have prevented Roy Evans from even naming a squad for the match at West Ham tomorrow, but one thing is certain. Mark Wright is out for six weeks with a depressed fracture of the cheekbone. It is a chance for Neil Ruddock, the expensive centre half who has been the subject of much speculation over an impending departure. But a recall does not necessarily mean he will be staying — Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Tottenham will monitor his progress **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

Some tabloid papers reported that Andy Cole will be knocking at Alex Ferguson's door after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was preferred to him on Wednesday. The reports were premature: Ferguson is not yet convinced that Cole is fit for 90 minutes, but Cole could be the loser, with Solskjaer's emergence. A week ago Ferguson gave both players 45 minutes: that could be the answer tomorrow, too, except that "I've got to consider Cruyff in the equation this week." Ferguson said. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

After scoring on his first-team debut at Hereford on Wednesday, Mikkel Beck hopes to start against Southampton at The Dell. "I do not see Fabrizio Ravanelli as a rival but a partner," the Denmark international forward said. With seven of Bryan Robson's usual first-choice selections requiring late fitness tests, Beck may well get his wish but Robson's real dilemma centres on Middlesbrough's five-man defence, which has consistently betrayed Ravanelli, Juninho and Co this season. **LT**

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Keith Gillespie should get another chance to stake a first-team place — but he's not betting on it. The Northern Ireland winger claims he has beaten his gambling addiction, and now wants a regular berth on the right wing to close the book on a sorry episode in his career. "I do not gamble any more," he said. "Now, if I could get myself back into the first team, it would prove I am fully through that period." Ginola is still injured, but Beardsley could return in place of Asprilla. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

With no takers at what manager Frank Clark considers a fair price, transfer-listed Jason Lee is pressing his claims on an improved contract at the City Ground. He helped his cause with the goal against Wycombe that kept Forest in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday, but, though modelling a bald pate rather than pineapple locks, he knows he will continue to be the subject of derision. "Whatever I do I will get stick, whether it is for my hair or something else," he said. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Not a good week for David Pleat, the manager. He watched Ajax play Grasshopper, of Zurich, on a scouting mission in Europe, but failed to produce the two new signings he admits he needs to keep his side at the right end of the table. Then he was the subject of an invidious and cowardly attack from Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward. Pleat, rightly, does not wish to dignify such puerile comments with a response, but the FA are looking for one — from Wright. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Lee Howey, brother of the Newcastle United defender, is expected to follow in his sibling's footsteps when he makes a Premiership debut at centre half against Arsenal today. While Howey replaces the suspended Richard Ord, Michael Bridges, a teenage forward who has been scoring freely in the reserves, vies with Craig Russell for the role of replacing Niall Quinn, the former Arsenal forward, who is out for a month with knee ligament damage. **LT**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Liverpool	7	17	+11	DWWWW
2 Newcastle	7	15	+3	LWWWW
3 Arsenal	7	14	+7	WDDWW
4 Manchester Utd	7	13	+10	DDWWD
5 Sheffield Wed	7	13	0	WWLLD
6 Wimbledon	7	12	+3	LWWWW
7 Aston Villa	7	12	+3	WWDDD
8 Chelsea	7	12	+1	WDWDL
9 Middlesbrough	7	11	+5	DWWWL
10 Derby	7	10	0	LDWWD
11 Sunderland	7	9	+2	DLDLW
12 Tottenham	7	8	0	DLLWL
13 West Ham	7	8	-4	WLDLW
14 Leicester	7	8	-4	LLDLW
15 Leeds	7	7	-6	WWLLL
16 Everton	7	6	-4	DLLLD
17 Nottm Forest	7	6	-5	DDDLL
18 Coventry	7	4	-10	LLLWL
19 Blackburn	7	2	-6	DLLLD
20 Southampton	7	2	-6	LDLLL

SOUTHAMPTON

Selectively-used statistics can be unreliable, but these ones — very carefully selected — might cheer Graeme Souness up as he contemplates seven Premiership games without a victory. At this stage of last season, Southampton had only three points more, from a win over Newcastle. Both of this season's draws are improvements on the equivalent games last year and Neil Shipperley, with no goals so far, did not find the net until the end of October last season, yet still finished joint-top scorer. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Not much change at White Hart Lane, with injuries again dominating the thoughts of Gerry Francis. So much so that he took off abroad, seeking replacements. Anderton has conceded defeat and will undergo a hernia operation on Tuesday, and Armstrong's left ankle is still dodgy. At least Sheringham's thigh muscle appears to have healed and Tottenham did manage their first home win, by beating Preston, since March. Fortunately, they only have to visit Old Trafford tomorrow. **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

Slaven Bilic, accused of greed and disloyalty over his contract demands, had a night his PR man could only have dreamt about against Barnet. As if agreeing a new deal, scoring the winning goal and giving his man-of-the-match mountain bike to an ill youngster was not enough, Bilic got this tribute from Rio Ferdinand, team-mate and rival for the centre half position: "Slav's a genuine guy, always willing to help and advise. Not all the really good players are like that." **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Although August was a cruel month for Wimbledon, with no points from three games, September has seen a total reversal of fortune, a run of five successive victories coming to an end with a draw at Portsmouth on Wednesday. But all those wins were achieved in London: four at home, and one at West Ham. Now Derby County, at the distant Baseball Ground, stand between Joe Kinnear, who has Vinnie Jones available after suspension, and an unbeaten September. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

ARSENAL v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 1-0, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, A Linighan, A Adams, P Vieira, M Keown, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parlour, D Platt, P Merson, I Wright, M Rose, R Garde, S Marshall, J Hartson, G Helder, J Lukic, P Shaw

SUNDERLAND: A Coton, G Hall, L Howey, A Melville, M Scott, S Agnew, K Ball, P Bracewell, M Gray, P Stewart, C Russell

CHELSEA v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-6, 4-3, —, 2-2, 0-0, 1-0, 0-0, —, 0-2, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, J Spencer, A Myers, G Vialli, M Hughes, D Wise, M Duberry, D Lee, C Burley, R Di Matteo, S Minto, E Johnsen, J Morris, M Nicholls, F Grodas.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, C Bart-Williams, I Woan, D Saunders, D Phillips, A-I Haaland, B Roy, N Jerkan, J Lee, P McGregor, S Gemmill, C Allen, S Blatherwick, C Armstrong

COVENTRY CITY v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 0-2, 2-1, 1-1, 5-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, L Daish, P Williams, D Burrows, P Telfer, E Jess, G McAllister, J Salako, D Dublin, N Whelan, M O'Neill, K Richardson, B Borrows, A Ducros, M Hall, J Filan

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, C Hendry, J Kenna, G Croft, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, G Donis, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Fenton, N Marker, S Given, C Coleman, S Ripley, N Gudmundsson, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay, M Holmes, M Broomes

DERBY COUNTY v WIMBLEDON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 0-1, 4-1, 1-1, 1-1, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, I Stimac, M Carbon, C Powell, D Powell, C Daily, J Laursen, A Asanovic, A Ward, D Sturridge, M Gabbiadini, P Simpson, P Parker, L Carsley, R van der Laan, A Quy

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, B Thatcher, A Kimble, C Perry, B McAllister, D Blackwell, D Jupp, V Jones, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, J Goodman, N Ardley, M Harford, J Euell, E Ekoku, P Heald

EVERTON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 4-0, 1-0, 2-0, —, 0-1, 1-1, 0-2, 1-4, 2-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, M Hottiger, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, M Jackson, A Kanchelskis, J Parkinson, A Grant, J Ebbrell, A Limpar, G Stuart, M Branch, G Speed, C Short

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Stefanovic, D Walker, G Whittingham, R Blinker, R Humphreys, A Booth, G Hyde, S Nicol, S Oakes, M Clarke, O Trustfull, D Hirst, J Newsome, M Williams

LEICESTER CITY v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 3-2, 1-2, 4-3, —, —, —, —, 1-3, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, N Lewis, J Watts, S Walsh, S Prior, S Taylor, N Lennon, M Izzet, I Marshall, E Heskey, S Lennart, K Poole, J Lawrence, G Parker, F Rolling, M Robins, S Campbell

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Kelly, R Jobson, C Palmer, D Wetherall, I Harte, A Couzens, M Ford, L Radebe, A Gray, L Sharpe, R Wallace, I Rush, M Hateley, M Beeney, P Beesley, M Tinkler, M Jackson, J Blunt, W Boyle, H Kewell

SOUTHAMPTON v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-3, —, —, —, 2-1, —, —, 2-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): N Moss, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, A Neilson, R Slater, J Magilton, S Charlton, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, M Oakley, G Potter, R Watkinson, F Benali, D Beasant.

MIDDLESBROUGH (probable): A Miller, N Cox, D Whyte, S Vickers, P Whelan, G Fleming, P Stamp, Emerson, Juninho, N Barmby, F Ravanelli

TOMORROW

WEST HAM UNITED v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-5, 1-1, 0-2, —, —, 0-0, —, 1-2, 3-0, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): S Mautone, P Shilton, T Breacker, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks, F Lampard, I Dowie, S Jones, M Hughes, S Lazaridis, R Ferdinand, M Bowen, P Futre, F Raducioiu, I Dumitrescu, J Moncur, I Bishop, A Cottee, H Porfirio

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, D Matteo, J Scales, S-I Bjornebye, J McAteer, N Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler, A Warner, P Berger.

LEADING SCORERS

6: I Wright (Arsenal), F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough).

4: P Berger (Liverpool), E Cantona (Manchester United), Juninho (Middlesbrough), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), A Shearer (Newcastle United), K Campbell (Nottingham Forest), E Ekoku (Wimbledon), F Leboeuf (Chelsea).

3: S McManaman (Liverpool), A Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), R Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), C Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), M Hughes (West Ham United).

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

MANCHESTER UNITED v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, 1-0, 1-0, 0-1, 1-1, 3-1, 4-1, 2-1, 0-0, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, D May, G Pallister, D Beckham, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, A Cole, P Scholes, K Poborsky, J Cruyff, B McClair, R van der Gouw, O-G Solskjaer

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, J Edinburgh, D Howells, A Sinton, R Fox, E Sheringham, S Nethercott, C Wilson, R Rosenthal, S Carr, D Kerslake, A Nielsen, R Allen, E Baardsen, D Austin

MONDAY

NEWCASTLE UNITED v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, —, 1-2, —, —, —, —, 5-1, 3-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Batty, D Peacock, S Howey, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, R Elliott, S Hislop, K Gillespie, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert, P Kitson.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Oakes, S Staunton, G Southgate, P McGrath, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, T Johnson, J Joachim, A Wright, F Nelson, U Ehiogu, R Scimeca, A Rachel, S Curcic

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC1: Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

11.00am Sky Sports 1: Goals on Sunday

4pm Sky Sports 1: Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur (live)

Monday

8pm Sky Sports 1: Newcastle United v Aston Villa (live)

[هكذا من الأصل.]

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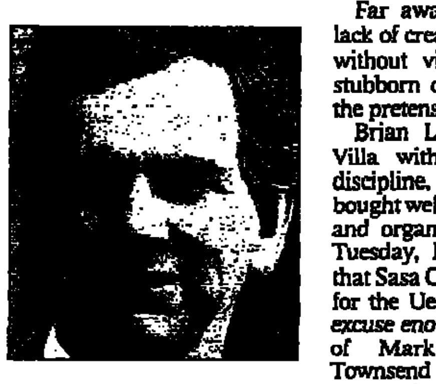
Little to write home about for Premiership clubs

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

A man of mischief might deduce that the true standing of England's FA Carling Premiership lies somewhere between the minster of York and the southern Swedish port of Helsingborg. After a week heavy with European fallout (again), and with the familiar uprising of the lower classes in the Coca-Cola-Cup, I feel minded to pursue that mischief.

Let us begin with the brothers Little. Brian Little manages Aston Villa, who came home from their match against the part-timers of Helsingborgs IF with their tail between their legs. Alan Little, the manager of York City and two years the junior, celebrated for the second time in a year a Coca-Cola Cup conquest of a Premiership club. Last year *his team defeated a compliant* Manchester United; on Tuesday they outplayed Everton.

These brothers, whose paths through the game became very different after they started as Villa apprentices together, are in charge of clubs almost as far apart as the A to Z of professionalism can divide them in England. It is not just alphabetical, for, on the homeward journey after Aston Villa's depressing inability to score against Helsingborgs, Doug Ellis, the club chairman, apparently offered his manager the millions to buy a creative player, enough money to have paid York City's wage bill for the next six to seven years.

Joe Royle, the manager of Everton, admitted, after York had beaten Everton 3-2, that he did not know what Everton's problem is. One thing that struck observers was that, far from not putting in the effort, Everton were trying might and main to avoid embarrassment in York.

Alan Little, meanwhile, was relishing the task of sending out players whose position, just above the relegation places in the Nationwide League second division, is perilous. Motivation, he said, was not one of his problems. Players at that level wait for the few chances in life to turn over the millionaires who visit them. The average pay for a York City player is £600 a week; that would not pay the tax of an Evertonian. Money, in a sense, is part of the reason *that Premiership players become seduced by presumptions of superiority.*

Why not? Everyone keeps telling them that the Premiership is without peer; that they are the gods of the Continent. In York, they were humbled by hungrier men, by the likes of Paul Stephenson.

He, a contemporary of Paul Gascoigne at Wallsend, apprentices together at Newcastle United, had lost his way. From Newcastle, he drifted down to Millwall, to Gillingham on loan, to Brentford. Yet, he can play and he had, when I first saw *him* as a schoolboy, a fair bag of tricks in terms of ball skills. They lurk, these "failed" players, in wait for the big time.

Far away, in Sweden, the lack of creativity, all the effort without vision to draw out stubborn defenders, betrayed the pretensions of Aston Villa.

Brian Little has managed Villa with astuteness, with discipline, with desire. He has bought well, he has galvanised and organised well, and, on Tuesday, he had the excuse that Sasa Curcic was ineligible for the Uefa Cup; but is that *excuse enough for the failings* of Mark Draper, Andy Townsend and the rest?

Sometimes, the whole involvement of English teams abroad seems shrouded by lame excuses. We heard, from Cologne, where Arsenal fell to Borussia Mönchengladbach on Wednesday, just as we heard from Helsingborg, that tired, old *reasoning* about English clubs being handicapped by the five-year absence after the Heysel tragedy. Isolation, the saying goes, blinded us to the developments of the European game.

Nonsense. Those five years merely entrenched a myopia that the English game would easily beat all others. The long ball, though we are at last eschewing it, still has its misguided ramifications, not the least of which is this lack of imagination in midfield.

No wonder those men of Helsingborgs could resist Villa. *Unfairly, the Swedes had* been given a lot of time off from their jobs in the sawmills to prepare for the match. Unfairly, the players from York, enthused by opportunity, ran and ran until Everton were ragged.

In the meantime, at Old Trafford, Manchester United let rip against Rapid Vienna. It was pace, it was power, but it was laced with skill. Manchester United have more than 12 times the audience of York City, with £1 million taken at the gate whenever they play, and possess the greatest merchandising factory in football.

The £1.5 million that they speculated during the summer on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer seems to have purchased a real talent, combined with a desire similar to that of the men from York.

Solskjaer, 23, amazes Alex Ferguson, his purchaser, by *his skill, his intuitive eye for* goal, his refusal to be overawed in the company of such as Eric Cantona. Solskjaer, taught by Aage Hareide, who passed through Maine Road as a player, was told that he had the adaptability and the quality to cope in a much bigger league than the second division of Norway. He is bridging that gap between hope and experience, between wealth and self-delusion.

SNOOKER

Missing cue fails to put Parrott off his stride

By Phil Yates

JOHN PARROTT beat Ken Doherty 6-3 in a remarkable upset in the semi-finals of the Regal Scottish Masters in *Motherwell yesterday,* using a cue with which he had become acquainted only the day before.

Parrott, the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion, returned from the Asian Classic in Thailand and decided that essential repair work had to be carried out on the butt of his cue. He posted it, along with the case, to John Parris, a renowned London cuesmith, but it never reached its destination. "I have spoken to the Post Office and they just can't track it down," Parrott said. "We think it must have been stolen, but obviously we can't be sure."

With the game having such a long history of embarrassingly heavy defeats for those coming to terms with lost or damaged cues, it was perfectly reasonable for the bookmakers to suspend betting on the outcome of the match. Indeed, many knowledgeable observers predicted a whitewash.

Even Parrott, who had the cue with which he won the world title stolen from his car five years ago, was pessimistic about his prospects before the contest. He played with a two-piece replica model made to his specifications by Parris. "It doesn't look like the old one and it feels dead," he said. "Anyway, it's extremely tough to get used to a new one at such short notice."

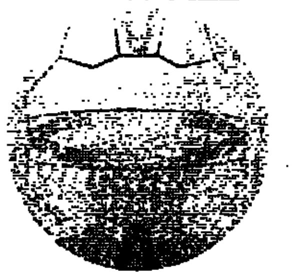
However, the key to Parrott's success against Doherty was an acceptance that his range of shots would be severely limited. Trying precious little which even bordered on the ambitious, he recovered from the loss of the opening two frames and compiled breaks of 57, 58 and 56.

"I'm really proud of the way I competed out there," Parrott, without a match win in the Regal Masters since its inaugural year in 1989, said. "I'm usually packing my cases af this stage of this event." He faces Alan McManus or Stephen Hendry, the defending champion, in the semi-finals today.

Graham has eyes on developing friendlier image

GEORGE GRAHAM

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By David Maddock

It is the warmth in George Graham's eyes that immediately throws you. They should be demon eyes, surely, like those in the Conservative party poster, apparently revealing a hidden menace. Graham has, after all, been portrayed as football's Public Enemy No 1 — a dour, difficult Scot who committed the cardinal sin of getting caught.

The fact is, he is actually rather a decent bloke. He is urbane, witty and intelligent company, and refreshingly honest with it. No trying to avoid difficult subjects, no glossing of failings.

It should not really come as too much of a surprise, of course, because, in football, image is everything except the truth. However, Graham helped to create his own monster, and eventually the creature devoured him. When, *as manager of Arsenal, he was accused of taking* "bungs", he had sufficient enemies for the response to be swift and vicious.

He now accepts that, had he approached things differently at Arsenal, not least in the way that he dealt with the media, life would have easier. "When I came into management, I made up my mind that I would be single-minded, that I wasn't going to be media-friendly, and yes, I think some of the treatment I got at the end was vicious because of that; it was probably stored up," he said.

We met at Elland Road, because Graham is back, if *anybody* needed *reminding,* with Leeds United after a 12-month ban from the game when the Football Association found him guilty of accepting *illegal* payments from an agent.

He is back with a different approach, too; a warmer reflection of his complex personality. He has thought about it long and hard, he says, and he does accept a need to change. "I will try to do it a bit different, maybe be a bit more co-operative and less difficult," he said.

It all begs the question, has George Graham changed? Perhaps it would be wrong to try to take too much from an interview that kicks off with the assertion that the subject is trying to soften his image, but *the overriding impression, throughout his interview,* was one of a man whose perception has widened.

He admits now that his passion and single-minded dedication to football has cost him dear in terms of his private life. A failed marriage, a split family, all painful experiences. There is just the hint of regret, even as he says that football has become his whole life.

"I do love football, passionately, and my personal life has suffered badly through it," he said. "I just love the job of management, and, if you're *really, really at the top* in any *profession,* then something suffers. It's very hard to get the balance, because the job is seven days a week, and television money has merely added to the pressure by raising expectation even higher.

"I am single-minded, and a lot of people think I'm arrogant, but I'm not bothered because I know it's not true — I'm friendly, actually. What I do have is a belief in myself, a belief that, if I apply myself, then I will get it right. I am a winner.

"In Britain, if you are a winner, then you make enemies because we treat winners with suspicion. It's just a sad British trait that you don't get in other countries. When people criticise me for being obsessed with winning, they have to realise it's a competitive world. There is a basic conflict at the heart of football, it is them versus us."

It is that belief, and strength of personality, that has allowed Graham to brazen out the intense and enduring debate that has raged around him since the ban. Graham has said that he no longer wants to talk about the "bungs" episode — he wants to move forward, not back.

Yet we talked about it because Graham, to his credit, did not hide from the issue. Has never hidden from it. There are no regrets, he says, because he has a career to get on with, and no amount of looking back will alter things. There was never a danger, either, of him not coming back, despite the seemingly endless stream of people lining up to say that he should not.

"I've had my time out, and now it's finished," he said. "There was never any doubt in my mind that I would come back, I knew I was good at this job, and I love doing it, so no amount of bile would stop me. I have got broad shoulders, and I have come through the past couple of years with my head held high. There was never a moment when I thought it wasn't worth taking all the stick.

"I have not run, I've faced up to it and taken it like I *always do. It is part of my* Scottish upbringing, my mentality. You know what, even though I know that there will always be people out to get me now, looking for me to slip. I feel sorry for them because is that all they can do with their life? I'm back because I have to be, financially, and I want to be, because it it is my life. I am forging ahead."

On the pitch, Graham will not be changing his style too much, even if his character is subtly altered by his experiences of the past two years. He has time for the wing back system, but believes that the old Arsenal 4-4-2 approach is still appropriate, given that the top European sides such as Juventus and AC Milan make it work perfectly well.

It would work for English clubs in Europe too, he says, if, like Arsenal in the Cup Winners' Cup, they get it right tactically. English clubs, he firmly believes, have the players to do well in Europe and will again if the discipline and tactics are right.

Graham will make it work at Leeds, because he has the talent and sheer bloody-minded commitment to make it work — and who are the self-righteous cynics, despite their numbers, to stop him? He has served his time, and he now *has the right to be back. He* knows that, and he hopes that people, in time, will come to see it too.

"Why shouldn't I come back, and be successful again?" he asked. "People should accept me for the person I am now, not what I was yesterday. We all learn, we all change. I have. People should look at me now and judge for themselves."

> **'There was never any doubt in my mind that I would come back'**

Graham greets the media with a smile after his appointment at Leeds United was confirmed earlier this month

Forest put up for sale in bid for new funds

By Richard Hobson

NOTTINGHAM Forest's directors have put the club up for sale in an attempt to generate fresh capital to help them to compete in the FA Carling Premiership.

Fred Reacher, the chairman, said that a number of parties have already shown interest, and he is taking legal advice on the financial implications of the offers. While refusing to name any individuals or consortiums involved, he denied that a bid has been placed by the Conrad company, linked recently with Manchester United.

Forest is owned by 209 shareholders, who each hold a single £1 share. A sell-out would need the approval of 75 per cent of them. "We have started the ball rolling to help the club change hands and give us a better chance of future success," Reacher said. "We have kept up with the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool in the past and we want to do so again."

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, and Ian Wright are the latest high-profile individuals to have attracted the attention of the Football Association's disciplinary authorities.

Royle was yesterday charged with bringing the game into disrepute after comments that he is alleged to have made to David Elleray, the referee, after the match against Blackburn Rovers last weekend. The match, at Ewood Park, ended 1-1, but Royle was furious after Duncan Ferguson, the Everton striker, was sent off in the final minutes of the match for "foul and abusive language". Royle has 14 days in which to respond.

Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City manager, and Gordon Strachan, his assistant, were also charged this week after incidents during the match against Chelsea in August.

Wright is to be asked for his observations after comments attributed to him in several newspapers yesterday. Wright is reported to have made an offensive personal attack on

Gullit determined to stir Chelsea revival

By Russell Kempson

CHELSEA'S start to the season promised great things. After a seven-match unbeaten run, in league and cup, even the most cynical west London observer was beginning to predict good times ahead for Ruud Gullit's cosmopolitan cavaliers.

Then, last Saturday, they were trounced 5-1 by Liverpool at Anfield. Worse still, on Wednesday, they struggled to maintain a three-goal advantage against Blackpool, in the Coca-Cola Cup second round, and squeezed through only 5-4 on aggregate after losing the second leg 3-1 at Stamford Bridge.

For Gullit, the player-manager, it is but a hiccup, a temporary lapse that is almost expected and that, most probably, will be rectified when they take on Nottingham Forest at home in the FA Carling Premiership today. "It is something that is always going to happen during a season," he said yesterday. "You don't know why, and you don't know where it comes from.

"It is not a question of tactics. It is all about performance, attitude and concentration. Without those, you will always struggle. Maybe players sometimes think: 'I will give 60 per cent today and that will do the job,' but it is not possible to be like that."

Chelsea are still beset by numerous long-term injuries, including Gullit, with Dennis Wise, Steve Clarke and Andy Myers also facing late tests to gauge their fitness for this afternoon. Yet Gullit has detected a mood swing in training, a change for the better.

"I got a good feeling," he said. "The players are aware of what happened, they are angry with themselves and they want to make it up to the supporters. We talked about it, what went wrong, and fingers were pointed. I think their sense of pride was dented."

☐ Tottenham Hotspur have taken Luca Luzardi, 26, the Italian defender, on a six-week trial. Brescia, his club, are asking for £600,000 before Luzardi can play in the

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SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

RUGBY UNION 45
Rob Andrew on
the clash of
the big spenders

Hill sets new target with Arrows

By Oliver Holt

THE only way was down for Damon Hill after it became clear that he would leave Williams at the end of the season, and last night he took the plunge. There were no half-measures, no halts on the way. Hill, who stands on the brink of a richly-deserved first world drivers' championship, will begin his attempt to claw his way back to the top of Formula One from close to the bottom.

Hill called a press conference at a hotel in West London yesterday afternoon to announce that he had rejected the earnest entreaties of his most ardent suitors, Jordan-Peugeot and Stewart-Ford, and had leapt, instead, into the grateful arms of TWR Arrows, a team that has not won any of the 287 grands prix that it has contested since its entry into the sport in 1978.

The decision was greeted by widespread surprise throughout the sport because, superficially at least, Arrows do not appear to offer the same prospects or the same element of romance that a move to either Jordan, with their Irish warmth and steady progress, or Stewart, with their pioneers' zeal, would have brought. Arrows have scored only one point this season and are ninth in the Constructors' championship.

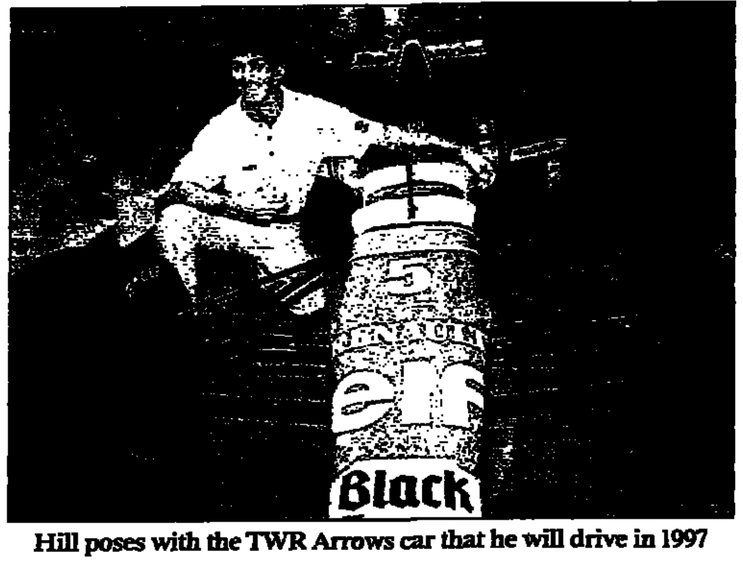
The most obvious explanation for the move, of course, is financial. Hill refused to discuss the details of his contract, save to say that it was a one-year deal, but it is thought that he will be paid $7 million [about £4.5 million] for his efforts, partly funded by the recruitment of his likely team-mate, Pedro Diniz, who is expected to bring $12 million worth of sponsorship with him.

Hill's new salary represents a pay cut of less than $1 million compared with his earnings with Williams, and is a fitting reward for his performances this season.

Hill and Michael Breen, his manager, though, unlike many of the driver's contemporaries, have never been blinded by offers of riches alone. The difference between the money offered by Arrows and by Jordan and Stewart is thought to have been relatively insignificant, and it seems that Hill was swayed by other considerations.

Most important, it appears that he was impressed by the reputation of Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows' owner, a Scot with a formidable record of success in various forms of motor sport. Most recently, Walkinshaw provided the hard edge behind the razzmattazz of Benetton's successes with Michael Schumacher in 1994 and 1995. He ran the Ligier team for a year, too, before he took control at Arrows.

MARC ASPLAND



Hill poses with the TWR Arrows car that he will drive in 1997

The feeling is that Walkinshaw is a man who always gets the job done, and a visit earlier this week to the team's state of the art factory in Leafield, near Witney, in Oxfordshire, appears to have convinced Hill that his future lay there. "Tom is the archetypal racing man," Hill said, "the man I and others credit with turning around Benetton's fortunes and the successful head of an internationally recognised design, engineering and manufacturing group.

"He has offered me more than I hoped for; a rewarding package and a great challenge to work in partnership with him to develop a winning Formula One team. Everything this man touches becomes a winner, so together we should be worth watching.

"It was not an easy decision to make, but Tom fulfilled just about every single criteria that I set out for myself: opportunities to make rapid progress, to get stuck into a testing programme and to drive with a real carrot at the end in the possibility of winning races.

"I will not make any claims about next season. It is going to be just the beginning, but it is the prospect of improving quickly that excites me. Tom Walkinshaw's operation at Leafield is the germ, the building block for the future. I think next year we will have a car that will surprise a few people. If my fans are true fans they will stick with me and we will go forward together."

Realistically, the best that Hill can hope for next season is the occasional podium finish. Arrows will have both a new engine, the Yamaha, and new tyres, supplied by the Japanese company, Bridgestone, and it is bound to take time to pull the various elements together. Few doubt that Walkinshaw will get it right in the end, but he admitted yesterday that breaking into the top five teams was his ambition for next season.

Walkinshaw sat alongside Hill and Breen at the press conference and said that he had monitored Hill closely throughout the season and had been impressed with what he had seen. He spoke to him after the Italian Grand Prix at Monza earlier this month to register his interest and sealed the deal earlier this week. Hill signed the contract on Thursday.

"It is not dependent on whether Damon wins the championship," he said. "The first tasks I set myself when I took over at Arrows was to get a top flight driver to lead the team. Now I have got one of the fastest drivers in the world."

Newcastle hungry for greater European experience

By Peter Ball

BRITISH experiences in Europe have not been universally happy recently, but the remaining football clubs could have few complaints about their luck in the draws for the second round of the European competitions yesterday. Newcastle United and Aberdeen avoided the big guns in the Uefa Cup and Liverpool were similarly fortunate in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Newcastle have the biggest name to confront in Ferencvaros, the Hungarian champions. Ferencvaros are a seeded team, but Hungarian football is in an almost permanent trough these days and they are playing in the competition after being knocked out of the preliminary round of the European Cup.

Defeat in Halmstad on Tuesday, however, warned Newcastle against any complacency. The team is still learning about playing in Europe, as that game showed. "The football on the Continent is very different to the way we play." Les Ferdinand, their goalscorer in Sweden, said yesterday.

"We are learning it's hard to beat these sides in Europe. They are very resilient and we can't afford any lapses of concentration; but the only way we'll learn is by making progress." They should do so.

"I'm surprised we're the only English club left, but it's nice to be the standard bearers," Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said.

Aberdeen may have the more difficult task in the Uefa Cup with a tie against Brondby, Liverpool's conquerors at the same stage a year ago.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Liverpool meet Sion, of Switzerland. They will be grateful to have avoided Barcelona, Benfica, Fiorentina, PSV Eindhoven and Paris Saint-Germain.

To add to Liverpool's and Newcastle's ease, both have the advantage of playing the first leg away. "At Liverpool, we were always glad to bring teams to Anfield for the return leg knowing what we had to do," McDermott said.

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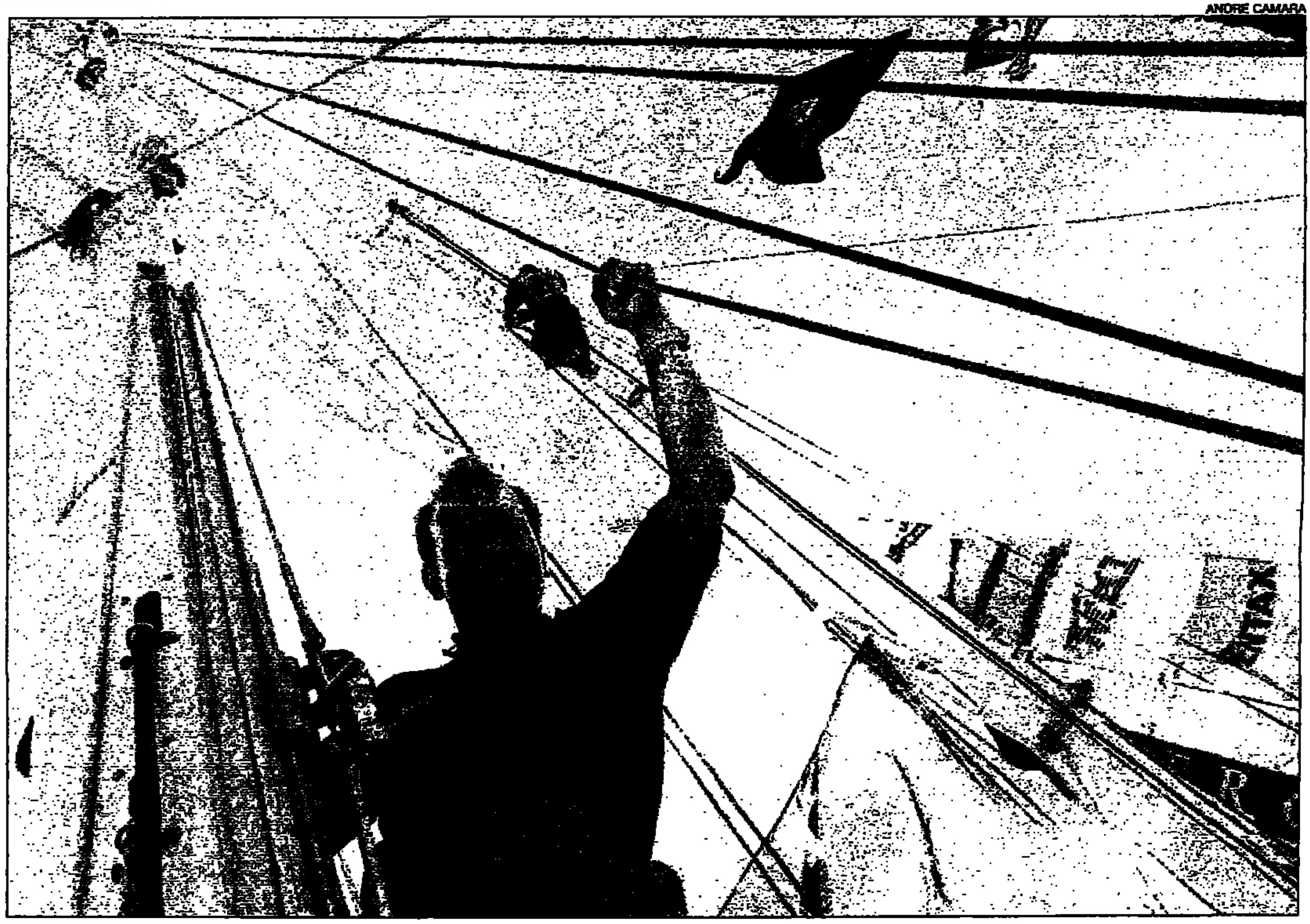
Volunteers head for high seas challenge

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

ANDRE CAMARA



Preparing for familiar waters, Golding, a veteran of previous circumnavigations, will skipper *Group 4* in the BT Global Challenge

AFTER what, for many of the eager volunteer crews, has been more than two years of training and preparation, the BT Global Challenge round-the-world yacht race finally gets underway from the eastern Solent tomorrow morning.

The 14 identical Rob Humphreys-designed 67ft steel cutters will make their way down Southampton Water and assemble at Gilkicker Point, off Gosport. There, the Princess Royal, the president of the Royal Yachting Association and patron of the Challenge Races, will fire the start gun from the Brittany Ferry, *Duc de Normandie*, at 12.05pm.

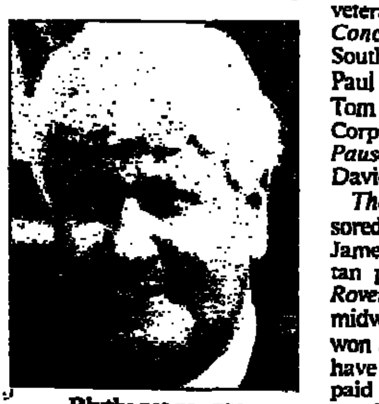
The general forecast suggests that the crews will sail into a headwind as they beat through the Solent, a foretaste of what is to come as they contemplate going to windward through the Southern Ocean, as did Chay Blyth, the founder and director of the race, during his epic solo voyage on *British Steel* 26 years ago.

BT
Global Challenge

There will be stiff competition from the off, with skippers vying for two special trophies, awarded to the first yacht to pass the Squadron line at Cowes and to the first to cross a second line, off Hurst Castle, as the fleet heads out through the Needles Channel.

After that, it will be a straight race to the first of five stopovers at Rio de Janeiro, where the leading finishers are expected in about a month's time. The overall winner will be the yacht that completes the circumnavigation in the shortest total time.

The BT Global Challenge is Blyth's second pay-as-you-go race and follows the phenomenal success of the first, the British Steel Challenge, which was run in 1992-93. Then, there were ten boats in the fleet, with the amateur circumnavigators each paying £14,850 for their "trip of a lifetime", which took them to Rio, then Hobart, Cape Town and back to Southampton.



Blyth: set course for race to follow

Four years later four new boats have been added to the fleet. This time the fee is £18,850 and there are more stops, taking the fleet from Southampton to Rio, then on to Wellington, Sydney, Cape Town, then a diversion up to Boston and finally back to Southampton.

The basic ingredients are the same. Around 290 people will take part, with most completing a circumnavigation. While the 14 skippers are all experienced professional yachtsmen, the crews are made up of people from all walks of life, some with very little sailing under their belts, others with experience to rival the best in any sailing club.

The race features a disabled crew on board *Time and Tide*, perhaps the finest expression of Blyth's conviction that anyone, from any background and whatever their ability, can savour the challenge of serious ocean racing. The *Time and Tide* crew is skippered by James Hatfield, who has a hole in the heart, but has already sailed once round the world single-handedly. Others on the boat have overcome cancer and curvature of the spine; there are three amputees, two deaf people, two with cerebral palsy and one who is blind. Hatfield is confident that they will not only get round, but also sail to win.

The other skippers include four who took charge of yachts in the first race: Richard Tudor, on the favourite, *Nuclear Electric*, which won the 1992-93 race; Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, who also holds the solo westabout record; Richard Merriweather, on *Commercial Union*; and Adrian Donovan, on *Heath Insured*. Three others were crew volunteers last time and have now stepped up to lead: Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*; Andrew Hindley, on *Save The Children*; and Mark Lodge, on *Motorola*.

The remaining skippers are Merfyn Owen, on *Global Teamwork*, Chris Tibbs, a veteran of two Whitbreads, on *Concert*, Boris Webber, from South Africa, on *Courtaulds*, Paul Bennett, on *Ocean Rover*, Tom O'Connor, an Irish Air Corps helicopter pilot, on *Pause To Remember*, and David Tomkinson, on *3Com*.

The Times has two sponsored crew in the race — James Capstick, a Metropolitan police officer, on *Ocean Rover*, and Lucy Duncan, a midwife, on *Concert*. They won a readers' competition to have half their berthing fee paid and they will report regularly for the paper throughout the race.

Latter-day adventurers prepare for supreme test of courage

David Miller admires the pluck of some ordinary folk with an extraordinary goal

Happiness, they say, cannot be bought. Be that as it may, some 200 people are having a go. It requires £18,750 each, ten months, 30,000 miles and an awful lot of hell and high water before they find out if they have succeeded.

The starting gun for the BT Global Challenge, the world's toughest yacht race if we are to believe Chay Blyth, its inventor and effectively its owner, will be fired by the Princess Royal on the Solent tomorrow to send an ordinary bunch of people on an extraordinary journey. In Nelson's day, you were press-ganged into this sort of horror. This lot not only volunteered, but also they begged, borrowed or paid for the privilege.

At a time of national self-doubt, not least on the sporting front, it is reassuring that an event demanding moral and physical courage, sacrifice of security for the uncertain, a sense of adventure and a trust in hitherto unknown colleagues, has been hugely over-subscribed with 700 applicants for a place on one of the 14 one-design steel yachts.

All of them are responding to the same inner call to prove themselves that drove Blyth, as a young paratrooper, to row across the Atlantic with John Ridgway, and later to sail, single-handed and, as they will, against prevailing winds and seas, around the world. Nearly three quarters of them had never previously sailed, though they have since been rigorously prepared for their departure tomorrow and the prolonged assault course lying in wait.

Whether BT's multinational organisation will get value for money from its sponsorship — 200 personnel and an undisclosed race budget believed to be several million — is another matter. Blyth's organising budget is £1.5 million and he has 49 staff. What is sure is that the event, staged for the second time, brings the camaraderie of ocean sailing, the ethos of the sport, in touch with everyday people and an armchair audience more accustomed to hearing about the elitist America's Cup.

The two remarkable aspects of the race — for that it certainly will be, more so than the first — are the selection of crew by Blyth and the responsibility of 14 professional skippers to ensure that their motley crews, of vastly different dispositions and abilities, co-operate effectively and have a safe, rewarding experience.

Mike Golding is the skipper, and full-time employee, of Group 4, the security specialists that sponsored his boat in the first race, 1992-93, when he was second, and again when he sailed non-stop single-handed, in 1993-94, to clip 125 days off Blyth's 286-day east-west circumnavigation record of 1971. "The race is about crew management," Golding said emphatically.

On the one hand, there has to be deck sail-handling efficiency, when a single snap-shackle dropped overboard costs £95, or a blown spinnaker or headsail writes off several thousands. On the other, he cannot relegate someone who evidently has two left feet exclusively to heating the soup when a gale is screaming through the rigging in the Roaring Forties. All must be involved.

The extreme responsibility in this respect will lie with James Hatfield, 40, a former open-heart surgery patient and skipper of the boat sponsored by Time and Tide, the charity that he helped to fund, and wholly crewed by disabled volunteers.

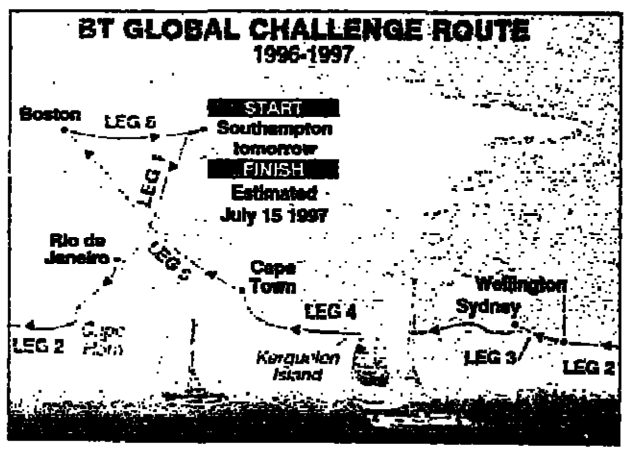
The genius of Blyth lies in single-handedly selecting every participant, sometimes with an interview of no more than 15 minutes, a rare capacity for judging character.

"The personal satisfaction if you get it right [on the boat] will be fantastic," Golding said, "but, if you get it wrong, you'll be in trouble up to your neck." The first event, he said, was pioneering, and wrongly labelled foolhardy by some. There were no accidents. "This time, the competitive element will be high," he predicted.

One of his watch leaders is Dr Amanda Tristram, the gynaecologist who resigned her post at Bristol, who will combine her watch duty with spinnaker-trimmer and computer communications supervision. The oldest hand is Jack Ward, a retired businessman who took part in the last ARC, the Atlantic race for cruisers.

The main worry, Blyth reckoned, will be damage caused by competitive racing between serious skippers. "We have maximised the safety elements," he said, which includes doubling the available life-raft spaces required by government regulations.

Part of that safety comes from BT's satellite tracking system, technology with a commercial market that is a prime objective in sponsorship hospitality "networking" among some 150 target companies and fellow sponsors at each port of call. The Global Challenge could do more for BT, at a fraction of the cost, than IBM's unhappy involvement with the Olympic Games. Already, BT's web site on the Internet has had 500,000 calls, many from schools and universities intending to follow the progress of the race.



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Arafat gives vent to anger with his eye on survival

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

ADEL HANA/AP

Yassir Arafat quoting from the Koran as he offers condolences to one of the families grieving for a relative killed in clashes in Gaza

YASSIR ARAFAT, the President of the Palestinian Authority, has never hesitated to change course if his survival is at stake.

His denouncement of the Israelis, appeal to the world to isolate the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu and call on fellow Palestinians to take up arms in response to the opening of the tunnel near al-Aqsa mosque, stand in extraordinary contrast to the condolences he sent to Yitzhak Rabin's widow and the sentimental clasping of Shimon Peres's hand only a few months ago. Yet he knows that, unless he rides the wave of Palestinian anger, he will be finished, politically and possibly even physically, and any chances for peace would die with him.

No one was plunged into deeper despair by the change of government in Jerusalem than Mr Arafat. His chances of consolidating his shaky rule over the rump of Palestine and showing himself a statesman depended on the Israelis. Unless they stuck to the Oslo timetable he could not claim to have won Palestinian self-rule or hold out the promise that one day he would have a real state with a real capital in east Jerusalem.

The Peres Labour Government seemed well on the way to delivering his dreams: troops were withdrawn from most of the West Bank, settlements halted and officials even talked about recognising a Palestinian state. Jerusalem remained a huge obstacle, and the settler community in Hebron had prevented an Israeli withdrawal from this flashpoint. But Mr Arafat believed he could open final status negotiations.

Mr Netanyahu's election win halted the process in its tracks. At first Mr Arafat hoped that pragmatism would soon force a return to negotiations. But to his dismay, Mr Netanyahu showed no interest in restarting final status talks, underlining his dislike of Mr Arafat by refusing to meet him for well over two months.

London rally: Muslims at the Israeli Embassy

This was a bitter blow. Mr Arafat is a proud and vain man, no longer young, who enjoys the trappings of office and the appearance of power — as Palestinian opponents demanding pluralist democracy know to their cost. The Likud Government's stance not only showed his pretensions to be overblown, but reinforced the impression that he was, at best, an Israeli puppet — a charge at the centre of Hamas accusations that he is a quisling.

For two months Mr Arafat, his resentment growing, begged for a meeting. But he had little leverage. Messages through Washington were received but pressure on Israel during the election campaign was unthinkable.

The weaker Mr Arafat looked, the less credible was his promise that he could deliver self-rule and the greater the resentment at his crackdown on radical opponents. Within the Palestinian Authority his position was unchallenged, but heavy-handed suppression of critics has provoked the allegation that he is an autocrat. Like Mr Netanyahu, Mr Arafat was alternately conciliatory, maintaining the peace process was on course, and blustering. He also had to watch his constituency, and the mood on the streets in Gaza was turning ugly. Mr Arafat's only weapon was the threat of strikes and demonstrations, which would hurt the struggling Palestinian economy far more than the Israelis. He has received little help from King Husain of Jordan, who has never hidden his dislike of him, or from other Arab leaders.

His appeals over the heads of the Israeli Government to world opinion have delivered little, beyond a symbolic handshake with Mr Netanyahu and no promise of a withdrawal from Hebron. Meanwhile, the promise of new settlements on the West Bank, the threat to close Orient House in Jerusalem and the demolition of a Palestinian community centre have been setbacks that made "normal" relations with Israel very difficult for most Palestinians to accept.

So Mr Arafat has given free rein to his anger and his rhetoric. But unlike Mr Peres, who was willing to accept flowery threats as the price of secret deals, Mr Netanyahu, with a blunt American style of negotiating that pays no attention to the need to save face, took Mr Arafat literally, using his words to show that he has been the man who has let the relationship slide. Palestinians as well have seen his words as a green light to give vent to their frustration. The tunnel was the spark, but relations were already tinder-dry. If a face-saving formula stops the violence, Mr Arafat could recover. He has taken up arms against most Arab leaders in the past, and kissed and made up. With Mr Netanyahu, it would be far harder. For Mr Arafat's pride has been critically wounded.

Rifkind appeals for Israel to make a peace gesture

From James Bone in New York

BRITAIN called on Israel yesterday to close the controversial tunnel under the al-Aqsa mosque and to revive the peace process with an "imaginative gesture" such as beginning its planned troop pull-out from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made the appeal in a rare appearance with other ministers at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York. Mr Rifkind urged Israel to declare a "moratorium" on opening the tunnel to tourism — the action which triggered the Israeli-Palestinian clashes of recent days.

"The tunnel has existed for some time," he said. "What caused the grave situation was opening up the second entrance. That was done very easily and it could be reversed very easily."

Giving a warning that the peace process was "on the verge of collapse", however, Mr Rifkind said further measures were also needed to restore Palestinian confidence after the election of the hardline Israeli Government.

"I do not think you can see these riots and demonstrations over the tunnel in isolation," he said. "If that tunnel were opened six months ago, it would have been controversial, but I do not think there would be 50 people dead. This has been the symptom of a much more severe deterioration which is under way."

Mr Rifkind urged Binyamin Netanyahu, the Isreali Prime Minister, to hold an immediate meeting with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to end the fighting. He also proposed that Israel act promptly to implement its commitments under its peace deal with the Palestinians, notably by beginning to withdraw its troops from Hebron.

The Foreign Secretary endorsed a proposal by King Husain of Jordan for the creation of an international commission to deal with archaeological issues in Jerusalem, and said Britain was ready to participate. Arab states called for the Security Council to condemn Israel for opening a second tunnel entrance, but Mr Rifkind said the UN should not single out either side for blame.

But he did express doubt about the wisdom of Israeli policy, saying it was easier to identify what Mr Netanyahu was against than what he was for. "There is still a lack of clarity as to the overall strategy the Israeli Government has adopted," he said.

With Mr Rifkind at the Security Council table were the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Russia, France, Chile, Honduras and Indonesia as well as the Palestinian representative at the UN.

Clinton keeps anger private

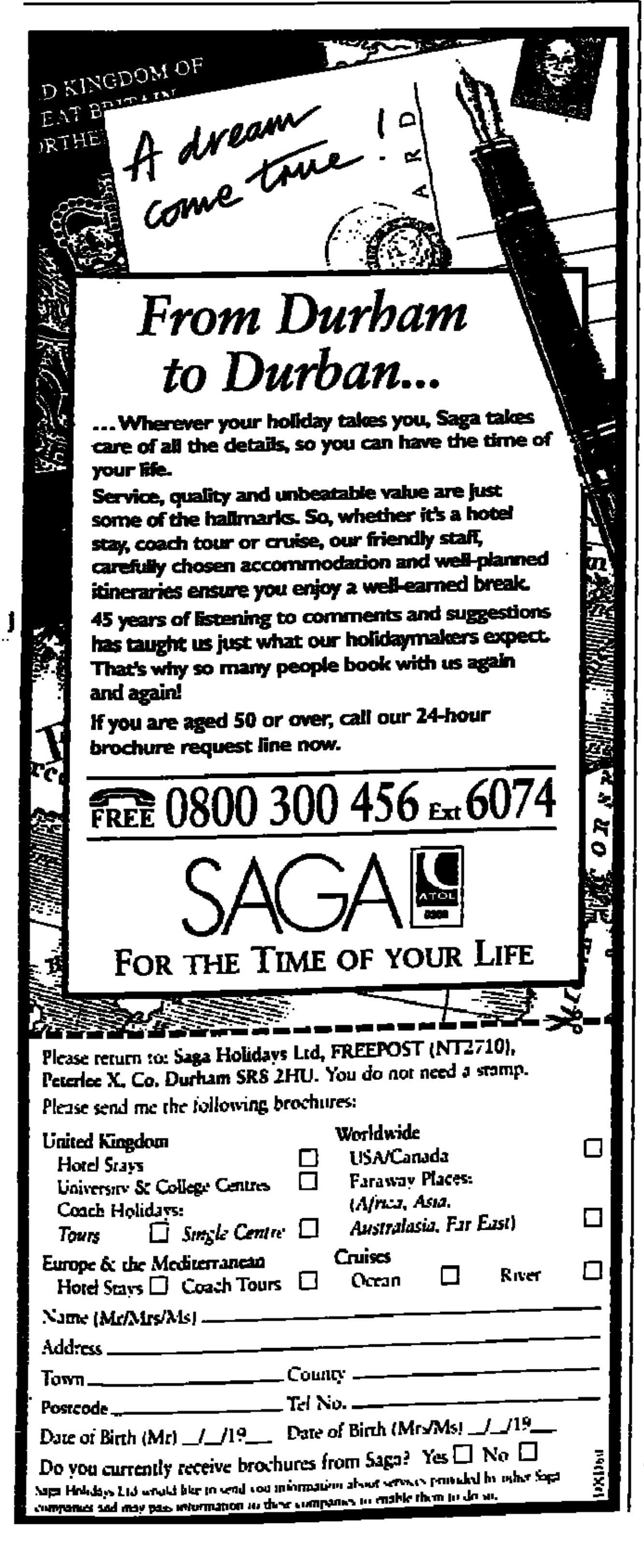
From Martin Fletcher in Washington

THE Clinton Administration is privately angry with Israel for sparking renewed violence in the West Bank and Gaza, but for strategic and domestic political reasons it will not join the harsh European criticism of Binyamin Netanyahu's Government.

The Administration believes its best chance of saving the peace process lies in the intense "behind-the-scenes" diplomacy in which it is engaged. President Clinton also knows an open clash with Israel just six weeks before an election would cost him Jewish-American votes, especially in the key state of Florida.

As it is, this week's violence prevents Mr Clinton citing the Middle East peace process as one of his proudest foreign policy successes, but that hardly matters because the American electorate is so exclusively focused on domestic issues. There is no evidence, for example, that Mr Clinton's mishandling of the recent Iraqi crisis cost him any support.

The Israeli Government gave Washington no warning of its provocative decision to open a new entrance to the disputed archaeological tunnel near a Muslim holy site. When the Palestinians reacted violently the Administration declined publicly to "play the blame game", but has privately been putting intense pressure on Mr Netanyahu to reseal the tunnel, at least temporarily, and to meet Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.



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Iron Lady and the Bard make Spain's parliamentary Speaker well-versed in power politics

Horatio of the Cortes

MADRID FILE
by TUNKU VARADARAJAN

HOW would the Britons react if they were told that Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the Commons, was doing a thesis on Cervantes? They would be gobsmacked, no doubt, to use a phrase not plucked from Quixote.

Yet in Spain, Miss Boothroyd's Anglophile counterpart, Federico Trillo-Figueroa y Martinez-Conde, 43, President of the Cortes, is studying the Bard in his spare time, and writing a doctoral thesis on "the concept of power in the works of William Shakespeare".

Señor Trillo's appreciation of things British stretches beyond Shakespeare, of course. "I admire Señora Thatcher profoundly," he says. "She had the courage and grace of her convictions, and powers of persuasion unmatched by any other politician I have met. Most of all, however, I admire her for the way in which she reinvented the modern, Western state. The lady was the first to put into practice all those neo-liberal principles which we now take for granted."

The President of the Cortes has the looks of an Iberian Robert Redford and is a member of the ruling Popular Party. An unabashed Thatcherite, he is one of a small tribe in Spain. "I am a Christian and a democrat, but I am not a Christian-Democrat," he declares. He is also quick to point out the "Thatcherite paradox" of European monetary union. The convergence criteria — "a reduced deficit, an end to superfluous spending by the state, the need to stabilise currency, and low inflation" — are all basic principles drawn from the Iron Lady's creed, he says.

Señor Trillo, with his impeccable English, campaigned in Britain for John Major in the last general election, visiting the country again to attend last year's Tory party conference in Blackpool. "The place is a bit of a northern Benidorm," he said.

With a copy of Erskine May on his desk ("it is always there"), he is clearly as keen a student of the British parliamentary system as he is of Shakespeare. "I take my hat off to your sense of dialogue, to the total absence of dogmatism in your Parliament. Debate there is governed by common sense." And how did Spain compare?

AFP

Señor Trillo, a committed Anglophile, at his summer home in Murcia with his family

"We have suffered for our dogmatism," he laments. "The Civil War was bitter proof of that."

The shadow of Shakespeare, too, falls over Spanish politics. "There is a Brutus and a Cassius in every political party," he says enigmatically, "as much in this age as in all others." Does Señor Trillo see himself in any of the Bard's characters? "Perhaps in Horatio," he ventures. Horatio, Hamlet's friend and counsellor — an unshowy choice for a quiet, powerful man.

Spanish as she is spoke

A 700-page book of considerable erudition, Anglicismos Hispánicos *(Hispanic Anglicisms), has just been published in Madrid to great fanfare. The book, by Emilio Lorenzo, a member of Spain's Royal Academy offers, among other things, a guide to such anglicisms as "niquers", "estriptis" and "güisqui". Translated back into English, these words are revealed as being nothing more exotic than knickers, striptease and whisky.*

Wealthy Dalí gave friend the brush-off

COMPELLING proof that Salvador Dalí, *the artist, could not spell* as well as he could paint — in fact, he could barely spell at all — is found in two recently discovered letters to his Surrealist fellow-traveller, Luis Buñuel.

These letters, dated April 1939, also reveal the true reasons for the end of the friendship between the painter and Buñuel, director of the film *Un Chien Andalou.* Contrary to general belief, the break-up had little to do with their growing political differences over Franco, whose policies Dalí had embraced with enthusiasm.

At the time these letters were written, Buñuel was in Hollywood, involved in a project on the Spanish Civil War. He was broke. Dalí, the toast of New York, was immensely rich. When Buñuel finally swallowed *his pride and wrote to Dalí* begging for money, the latter responded with a rambling letter forecasting Spain's "imminent global hegemony".

In the final paragraph lay the sting: a refusal to give Buñuel money. The reason was this: "I haven't yet forgotten that you did not include my name in the screen credits of *Un Chien Andalou.*" The film was made in 1934, five years before the letter was written.

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CHANGING TIMES

Soaring drug use tarnishes 'golden youth' of Moscow

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE "golden youth" of Moscow, fond of fast cars, designer clothes and expensive nightclubs, *are causing a new social* problem by turning to hard drugs.

The number of heroin addicts in Moscow has soared by 200 per cent this year, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, and cocaine addiction has also risen sharply. There are now some 6,000 officially registered drug addicts in the Russian capital, while the real figure is probably much higher.

The main users are young people who now have the kind of spending power their parents could only dream of, hence their "golden youth" tag. They are buying heroin at $100 (about £64) a gram or higher, Vladimir Charykov, head of the Illegal Drugs Department of the Moscow police, said in an interview. That is more than the average pensioner receives in a month.

A lot of ordinary businessmen are also taking heroin, Mr Charykov said. However "top businessmen prefer cocaine".

The police officers being asked to tackle this drugs boom are underfunded and under-equipped. Only one in five anti-drugs officers have a radio and there is only one car *for every ten to 15 officers,* according to the department.

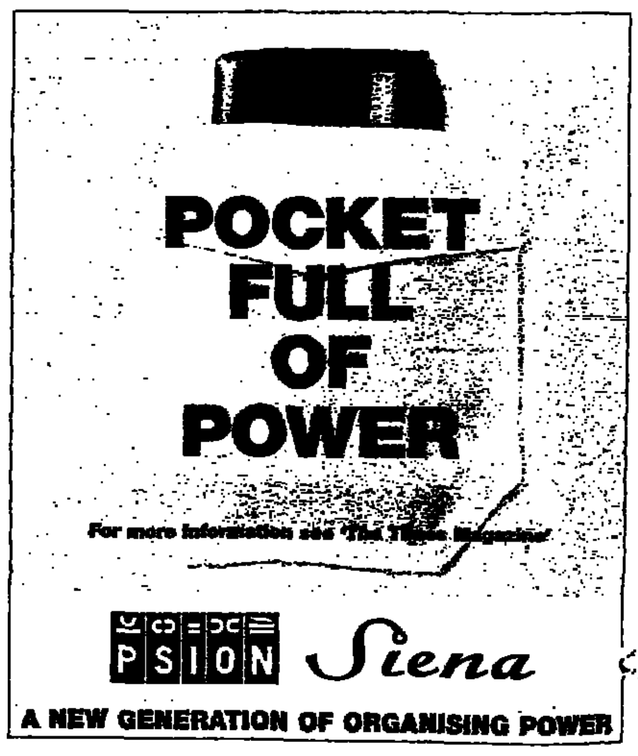
One of the biggest problems is mounting drug raids in the smarter parts of Moscow. The managers of the nightclubs where many of the hard drugs are consumed are reluctant to let police officers in, Mr Charykov said, forcing the police to use devious measures to gain access.

One anti-drugs officer complained last year of the expense of sending undercover officers to clubs where the entrance fee was as high as $200.

Most of the cocaine comes from South America, where local traders have made contact with Russian underworld.

Two weeks ago, a Russian and a Peruvian were arrested at Moscow airport for bringing 4kg (almost 9lb) of cocaine into Russia in a briefcase with a *false bottom. The street* value of the haul was estimated at $1 million.

The heroin mainly comes from the "Golden Crescent" of countries in Central Asia, which has become the centre of the world opium trade.



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Record jobless total adds to Juppé woes

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRENCH unemployment rose to a record high last month, putting renewed pressure on a government already battered by harsh internal criticism and mounting threats of industrial action.

As Paris Métro workers staged a one-day strike over jobs and wages, and rail employees tied up regional transport in the southeast for the fifth consecutive day, official figures yesterday showed that unemployment reached 12.6 per cent in August after the steepest rise in monthly jobless figures for three years.

Almost 40,000 more people became unemployed last month, raising the total to 3,085,000, according to statistics issued by the International Labour Organisation. In June the jobless figure equalled the record of 12.5 per cent set in March 1994, then dipped slightly in July, before leaping again to last month's new record high.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, has called for a vote of confidence in the Government's economic policies next week but in the past two days he has been condemned within the ruling Gaullist RPR party. President Chirac intervened to support his Prime Minister after particularly venomous onslaughts during the party's annual convention in Le Havre.

Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister, and Pierre Mazaud, a party veteran, both lashed out at M Juppé's initiatives to reform the electoral system and bolster anti-racism legislation. Etienne Garnier, a backbench deputy, referred to him as "an irreparable Prime Minister, whose dogmatism and clumsiness are leading the country towards insurmountable problems". M Chirac expressed "indignation" at M Juppé's mauling and said he would interpret any attack on the Prime Minister as a personal slight. M Chirac's office denied reports that M Juppe had threatened to resign or boycott the conference unless the President intervened to restore discipline.

M Chirac is technically above party politics and his decision to intervene personally is a sign of how damaging internal strains have become.

While the Government will certainly win a confidence vote next Wednesday, an opinion poll this week showed M Chirac's approval rating had slumped to 36 per cent, the lowest since he was elected in May last year. "The bad unemployment figures will certainly not help to put an end to criticism within the ranks of the majority," M Juppé admitted dolefully.

M Balladur said the Government needed to go further in cutting spending to bring down the deficit and meet the criteria for European economic and monetary union, but he insisted that M Juppé must also boost the economy and tackle unemployment.

Unions are mobilising to oppose M Juppé's latest batch of austerity measures, including the elimination of nearly 6,000 civil service jobs. Teachers, who stand to suffer most from the cuts, will stage a one-day stoppage on Monday and public sector unions, joined by the two most powerful rail unions, have called a strike on October 17.

☐ **Madrid:** Spain's Government approved the draft of an austere budget which would assure the country's inclusion in the launch of the single European currency. The budget is intended to slash 1.2 trillion pesetas (about £6 billion) from the public deficit. *(Reuter)*

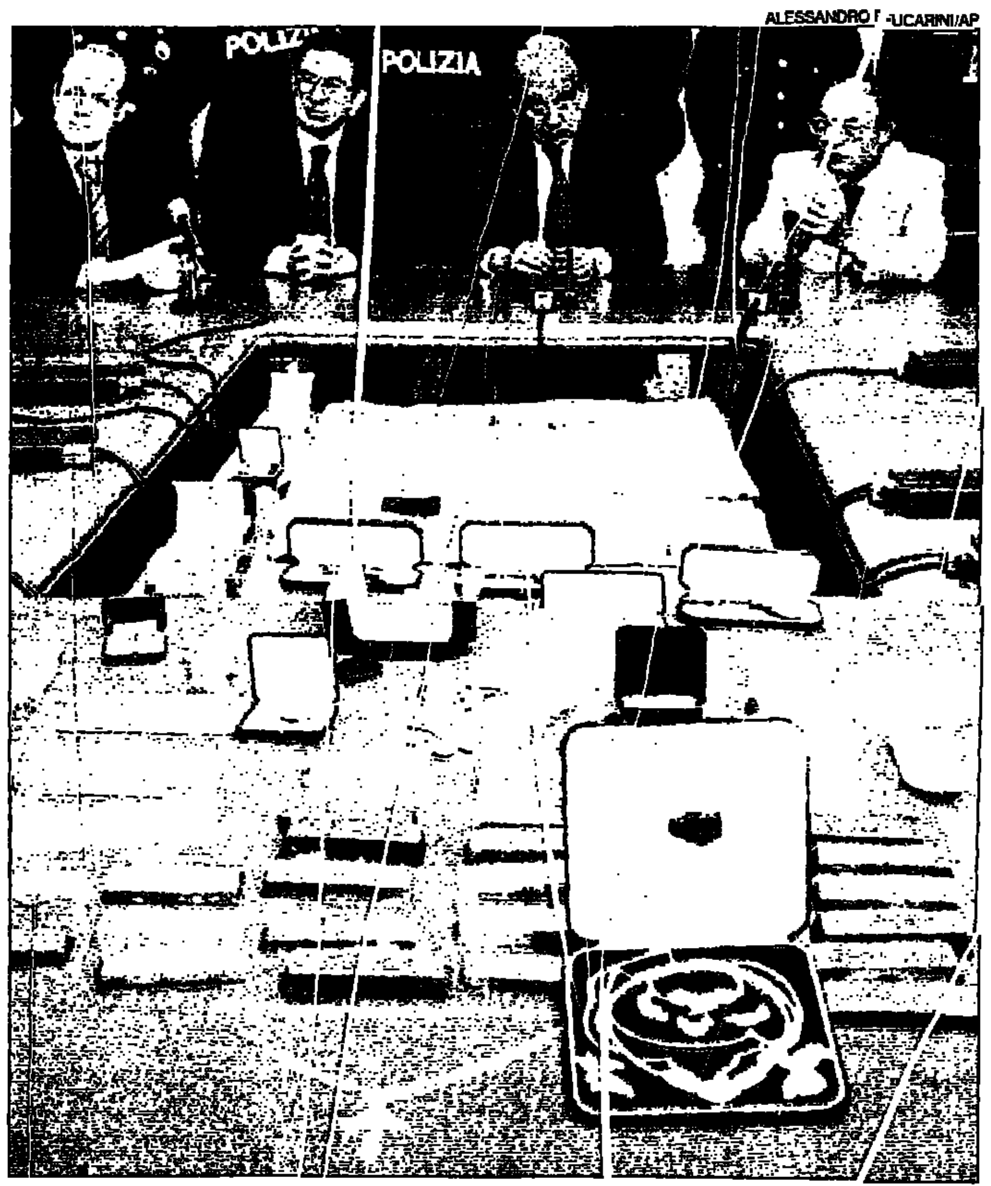
Italy hit by pay strike

Rome: Hundreds of thousands of people marched through Italian cities yesterday during a one-day national strike by 1.5 million engineering and metalworkers seeking pay rises of up to 10.1 per cent over two years. Employers have offered from 7 to 9 per cent, in line with other sectors.

About 50,000 workers marched in the northern industrial cities of Milan and Turin and took part in rallies addressed by union leaders. The strikers included Fiat carworkers and Olivetti computer staff.

Smaller protests took place as far south as Naples, where 20,000 people demonstrated, and Palermo, the Sicilian capital. *(Reuter)*

ALESSANDRO FUCARINI/AP



Sicilian magistrates in Palermo display the Mafia chief's hoard yesterday

Treasure found in Mafia suitcase

From Francesco Bongarra in Palermo

ITALIAN police have unearthed the personal treasure of Toto Riina, the Mafia's "Boss of Bosses", in an underground hideout.

Gold bars weighing 88lb, 300 sovereigns, diamonds, emeralds, jewels, Swiss gold watches, blank Italian passports, a large amount of dollars and marks and a massive golden crucifix, covered in precious stones, were found in a suitcase. The treasure was hidden under a villa in Castelvetrano, a resort near the city of Trapani, in western Sicily.

Arnaldo la Barbera, the police chief in Palermo, said the hoard was worth about £1.5 million.

The discovery came after revelations that another Mafia member has become an informer. Police say he is a jeweller from Castelvetrano. He was given the suitcase by Riina in 1991 "to keep it safe and ready to be used by him or his family when 'bad moments' arrived", he told prosecutors. In yesterday's raid, police also arrested eight alleged chiefs of Mafia families.

Daughter of Lancia is killed

From John Phillips in Rome

ELEONORA LANCIA, daughter of Vincenzo Lancia, founder of the car company, was killed yesterday by one of her daughters, police said.

The victim, 70, they alleged, was stabbed through the heart by Giovanna Boglione, 44, at the family estate in the smart Turin suburb of Moncalieri. The daughter of the dead woman was taken by police to a Turin hospital where she was being treated for severe shock in a psychiatric ward.

Police said they did not know the motive for the killing, but Signora Boglione had been suffering from depression for about a year since she separated from her husband. She had been staying with her mother for several days.

A maid allegedly told police the family had received guests for dinner the previous night. After they had gone to bed, she was awoken by screams shortly before 3am and found the dead woman's daughter in the kitchen holding a carving knife. The maid disarmed her and called the police.

Vincenzo Lancia, who founded the company in 1906, died in 1937. Lancia was absorbed into the Fiat empire in 1969.

True love blocked by mother of a château

By Ben Macintyre

IN A tale of snobbery, feudalism and maternal domination, a powerful doyenne of the landed aristocracy has intervened to prevent her only son from marrying the woman he loves — the daughter of a trade unionist.

On the day that Henri-Georges Lacombe-Mauranges, 34, was to wed his fiancée, his mother invoked an ancient French law that allows parents to prevent their children from marrying — even when adult — by asserting that one or other of the partners is "demented".

Hélène Lacombe-Mauranges, 66, *châtelaine* (lady of the manor) of a vast 13th century château in the Dordogne, is bitterly opposed to her son's engagement to a divorced woman of 41 with three children. On their planned wedding day, September 14, a bailiff arrived bearing a formal "act of opposition" from the groom's parents and the wedding was cancelled.

"Henri-Georges does not have the necessary discernment to give his consent to the prospective marriage," the matriarch and her husband, a retired lawyer, alleged in a legal document citing the seldom-used Article 173 of the French penal code. The would-be groom, who has taken legal action to end the "opposition", told *Le Figaro* yesterday: "In this region the barons are still very strong. Sometimes we seem to be living in the middle of a feudal system."

His prospective father-in-law, in addition to membership of the Communist-led CGT union, also works at the nearby Château de Cloud — another factor that has not endeared the match to Mme Lacombe-Mauranges.

After his military career was aborted due to a nervous breakdown in 1988, Henri lived in a flat above his mother's property business in Périgueux, where he worked. In September 1993 he met and fell in love with Lilliane at a local café. For more than a year he kept his mother in ignorance of the love affair, but when he finally revealed the object of his affections Lilliane was banned from the château and Henri was thrown out of the flat and sacked by his mother "for economic reasons".

The final chapter to this plot has yet to be written, as Henri awaits the verdict of the courts and his mother remains as unyielding as her castle walls.

WORLD SUMMARY

'Kidnap' girls are found safe

Cologne: Four German girls who vanished from home here have been found unharmed near the Dutch town of Oostburg, where they told police they had asked a man to take them away because they were tired of school.

The girls, twins aged 12 and two friends of ten and 11, were found by Dutch police, who arrested a German, aged 45, a former live-in partner of the twins' mother previously investigated for paedophilia but not charged. *(Reuter)*

Palme denial by apartheid spy

Johannesburg: Craig Williamson, the apartheid spy, has denied the allegation by Eugene de Kock, a former police colleague, that he was behind the 1986 assassination of Olaf Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister (Inigo Gilmore writes). De Kock made the accusation in the Pretoria Supreme Court during evidence in mitigation of the life sentence he faces for apartheid crimes. Mr Williamson said the accusation was "crazy".

Cliff tragedy claims nine

Sydney: Four adults and five children, aged 11 to 13, were killed when a limestone cliff collapsed on them during a school trip to a surfing carnival in Leeuwin national park, south of Perth (Rachel Bridge writes). Rescuers found one girl alive. Earlier, a mother had written to a newspaper calling for the trip to be cancelled because the area was dangerous.

London offer to Sri Lanka

Colombo: Liam Fox, a Foreign Office minister, said Britain could mediate to end the Sri Lankan ethnic war if invited by the Government and Tamil Tiger rebels. The offer came as government forces killed 450 guerrillas, many women, in a northern offensive near Kilinochchi after a month's lull. *(Reuter)*

Gunman hijacks St Moritz train

Zurich: A gunman hijacked a Swiss train en route to the Alpine resort of St Moritz with about 200 passengers for four hours before surrendering. The 33-year-old pulled out an air pistol and fired a shot to take control of the train. *(Reuter)*

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■ BASE NOTES

Michael Heseltine joins other celebrated 'artists' in a novel fundraiser for the Prince's Trust

■ BASE NOTES

Sir John Gielgud heads the list of stars who will put *A Dance to the Music of Time* on screen

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Top American choreographer Mark Morris is snapped up by both London opera companies

■ FILM

At 20, Kate Winslet has cornered the market in costume-drama heroines

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ANDREW WALKINSHAW

Age: 16

Profession: Actor, dancer, singer.

Appearing in: Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (with male swans) in the West End, as the Young Prince.

Run-up: Walkinshaw shouldered his royal role last year when *Swan Lake* premiered at Sadler's Wells. He is also in the forthcoming BBC/Warner Bros film of the show. He is not new to the West End. He was the Artful Dodger's snaky best mate in Sam Mendes's *Oliver!*. On television, aged 13, he embodied the juvenile murderer Graham Young in Granada's *A Terrible Coldness*.

Hails from: Rainham in Essex, where he lives with his parents (an accountant and a secretary). Obviously highly organised, he shuttles between the Piccadilly Theatre and Havering Sixth Form College. "I'm doing my A levels in case I need something to fall back on."

Formal training: None. He started in an amateur drama group, aged ten, "just because lots of people at school joined. I used to sing in concerts, as well, at Chafford School. My music teacher put in for the National Youth Music Theatre auditions. I just went for something to do other than hang around in the street." It was the NYMT's tour to New York and Toronto that really gave him a taste for theatre. Jeremy James Taylor of the NYMT subsequently suggested him for both *A Terrible Coldness* and *Oliver!*. Walkinshaw does not have an agent. "At the moment," he says, "I get the calls without."

Ideal roles: Javert, the policeman, in *Les Mis*.

Any heroes? Demi Moore.

Hobbies: Football, snooker and "talking a lot".

On performing: "Financially, it's not a very stable job," he says. "Other than that, it's wicked."

KATE BASSETT

BASE NOTES

● WHAT do Janet Jackson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Michael Heseltine have in common? They have all revealed their creative spirits for Masks, a novel fundraising project for **The Prince's Trust**. The Masks campaign is hoping to raise more than £1 million by auctioning personalised works of art contributed by more than 500 celebrities. Each has painted or decorated a white clay mask which will be auctioned by Sotheby's on November 28 at the Festival Hall. All the Masks will be unveiled for a public exhibition at the Festival Hall from November 7, although Liberty in Regent Street is previewing the exhibition from Monday. Among those taking part are David Bowie, Bette Midler, Alec Guinness, Paul Gascoigne, Gene Hackman and Linda Evangelista.

● FILMING has started in London on a television adaptation of **Anthony Powell's** 12-volume masterpiece, *A Dance to the Music of Time*. Powell's epic comedy of manners, which looks at the social history of Britain across most of the 20th century, will be shown on Channel 4 some time next year. The novels are being adapted by Hugh Whitemore; the cast includes Sarah Badel, Edward Fox, John Gielgud, Simon Russell Beale and Emma Fielding.

● FIVE years ago few in Britain had heard of the American choreographer **Mark Morris**. But his staging of Gluck's opera *Orfeo* was one of the highlights of this year's Edinburgh Festival, and now comes news that he will be working with both of Britain's leading opera companies in the next 12 months. First up is a collaboration with English National Opera at the Coliseum on the first London performances (in June 1997) of Morris's stunning *L'Allegro, il penseroso ed il moderato* (set to Handel's great choral work). The choreographer-director then turns his attention to Rameau's *Platée*, in a new production for the Royal Opera planned for the Barbican next September.

Matt Wolf meets Kate Winslet, Hollywood's actress of the moment ...

One foot in the gravitas

"People kept throwing things at me, which made me feel very uncomfortable and suffocated, like I wasn't my own person": Kate Winslet reflects on the perils of Oscar-nominated fame

At 20, actress Kate Winslet finds her star is rising almost as quickly as she can talk. A lively conversationalist, she has proved no less buoyant on screen, coming to attention via a New Zealand-made art-house hit, *Heavenly Creatures*, and then the lushly English surroundings of *Sense and Sensibility*, for which she was nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actress and which won her a Bafta.

From Austen, Winslet has shifted to Thomas Hardy, playing Sue Bridehead in Michael Winterbottom's brooding film adaptation of *Jude*, which opens next week. On Christmas Day, she arrives in American cinemas playing Ophelia in Kenneth Branagh's film of *Hamlet*. Once more, talk of an Oscar nomination is in the air.

The film world has always had a voracious appetite for youth, and on that front Winslet's only rival seems to be the busy 23-year-old American star of *Emma*, Gwyneth Paltrow. Like Paltrow, Winslet couples beauty and talent, and her assured work in *Jude* proves that the impulsive Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* was no fluke.

But although the two films were shot in succession (with seven weeks in between), they were entirely different experiences. "There were fewer people, and it takes place almost a hundred years later — it was a whole different ball game," Winslet says of *Jude*. "We really could have been acting *Jude* now, whereas *Sense and Sensibility*, although it does feel very modern and you can relate to it, would have required adding a lot if it had been set in 1996."

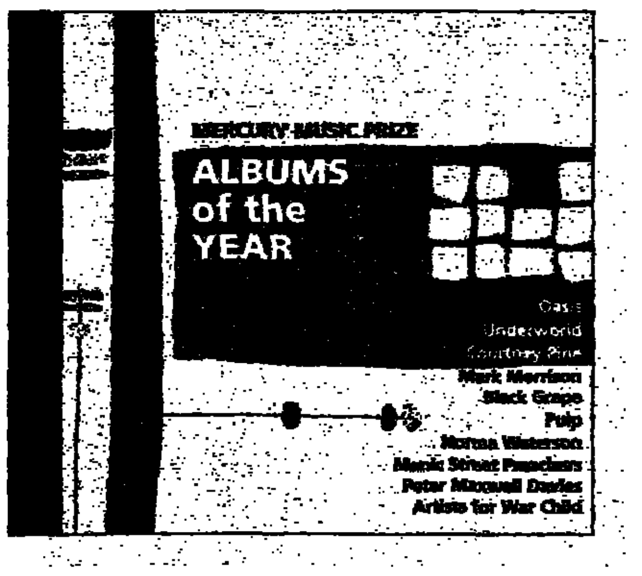
Their directors' approaches varied as well. Ang Lee quietly coaxed and sometimes bullied his cast in *Sense and Sensibility*, whereas Winterbottom was more upfront. "If Michael wanted something, he would just tell you. He's doesn't worry about what people might think, about having the Hardy freaks saying, 'Hang on a minute'." The result, Winslet says, "is a film I think Hardy would have made."

When *Jude the Obscure* was dramatised on stage by Mike Alfreds earlier this year, the character of Sue left many critics cold as she moved towards and away from her stonemason cousin, Jude Fawley. Winslet comes to the heroine's defence, citing "vulnerabilities and insecurities that are quite beyond anything I've ever encountered. It's not a fear of sex and it's not a fear of love; it's a fear of losing independence. She loves Jude from the moment she meets

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

The Mercury Music Prize CD for £1

Starting today, for just £1, readers of *The Times* can get the Mercury Music Prize CD, which includes tracks by top names Pulp, Oasis and the very best of British artists. Ten top albums were shortlisted for the 1996 Mercury Music Prize, ranging as usual across the entire spectrum of British and Irish music, and this CD features a hit track from each. From the rousing three-chord pop of Oasis's *Hey Now!* to an excerpt from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Beltane Fire*, a hectic orchestral piece originally commissioned as the score for a ballet.



1996 MERCURY MUSIC PRIZE ALBUMS OF THE YEAR TRACK LISTING

1. Courtney Pine *The 37th Chamber* 4.20
2. Mark Morrison *Return Of The Mack* 4.34
3. Pulp *Disco 2000* 4.33
4. Black Grape *A Big Day In The North* 4.10
5. Norma Waterson *There Ain't No Sweet Man* 3.53
6. Manic Street Preachers *A Design for Life* 4.17
7. Oasis *Hey Now!* 5.41
8. Radiohead (for War Child) *Lucky* 4.20
9. Underworld *Confusion The Waitress* 6.45
10. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies/BBC Philharmonic *The Beltane Fire* (excerpt) 1.29

Musical excellence, regardless of genre, remains the sole criterion for inclusion on the Mercury list (*David Sinclair writes)*, but in judging who should win the prize, the hardest part of the task in previous years has been to decide between records of similar provenance (Suede vs the Auteurs in 1993, Portishead vs Tricky in 1995).

However, this year the panel were torn between two vastly differing albums, eventually giving the award to Pulp for *Different Class* (represented here by *Disco 2000*), but also making a special acknowledgment of veteran folk singer Norma Waterson. Her delightfully nimble version of Fred Fisher's song, *There Ain't No Sweet Man That's Worth The Salt Of My Tears*, is typical of her self-titled album's warmth and understated charm.

Radiohead, whose own album, *The Bends*, was shamefully omitted from the 1995 short list, make a belated appearance this time around with their transcendent anthem, *Lucky*, representing the many artists who contributed to the War Child charity album *Help*.

A Design For Life from the Manic Street Preachers' album, *Everything Must Go*, was one of the most admired singles of the year, and the chart-topping *Return Of The Mack* from Mark Morrison's album of the same name was one of the biggest-selling songs of 1996.

Underworld and Black Grape provide two widely contrasting examples of the best in contemporary British dance music with *Confusion The Waitress* (from *Second Toughest In The Infants*) and *A Big Day In The North* (from *It's Great When You're Straight...Yeah!*) respectively. And Courtney Pine shows exactly why he is one of the most respected saxophonists of his generation, with a burst of hyperactive soloing sandwiched between the lilting refrain of *The 37th Chamber*, taken from his album, *Modern Day Jazz Stories*.

It is safe to say that no other album will be able to boast ten such diverse yet exceptional pieces of contemporary music....at least until next year's Mercury Music Prize short-list is announced.

● David Sinclair was one of the ten judges of the 1996 Mercury Music Prize.

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In a different class: Pulp, winners of the 1996 Mercury Music Prize

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THE TIMES ARTS

■ GOING OUT

. . . and the chart-topping Kula Shaker taking their retro-pop round the country . . .

■ GOING OUT

.. to Bruce Willis's latest film: the top attractions are listed in Weekend, page 14

... and face of the centuries

him, but she uses this independence thing she feels she's got in order to call the shots. If she just let herself go, she would be a lot happier."

By contrast, it is Winslet's own grounding in what she describes as "a very strong, loving, secure environment" that has prepared her to cope with her current celebrity. She grew up in Reading, the second of four children of an actor father for whom, she says, "things never really kicked off".

"There's never been any money in my family," she says, "so now the most joyous thing about what I'm doing is that I can help out if they need it." And though she has yet to fulfil her ambition to buy her parents a house, she did take them with her to the Oscars in March, an experience she remembers as "complete madness, total insanity.

"People kept coming up and lavishly throwing things at me, which made me feel very, very uncomfortable and sort of suffocated, like I wasn't my own person. I would get a phone call" — she drops into her best American accent — "'We have your masseuse coming up', and I would say, 'What masseuse?', and, great as that was, I just found it so invasive."

The mixture of rigour and sycophancy enabled her parents to see at first hand a Hollywood far from the den of licentiousness that her father, at least, had been envisioning. "He used to phone me in LA and say: 'Noboby's giving you anything to keep you awake, are they?' and I would say: 'Dad, this is not the Judy Garland era. Times have changed.'"

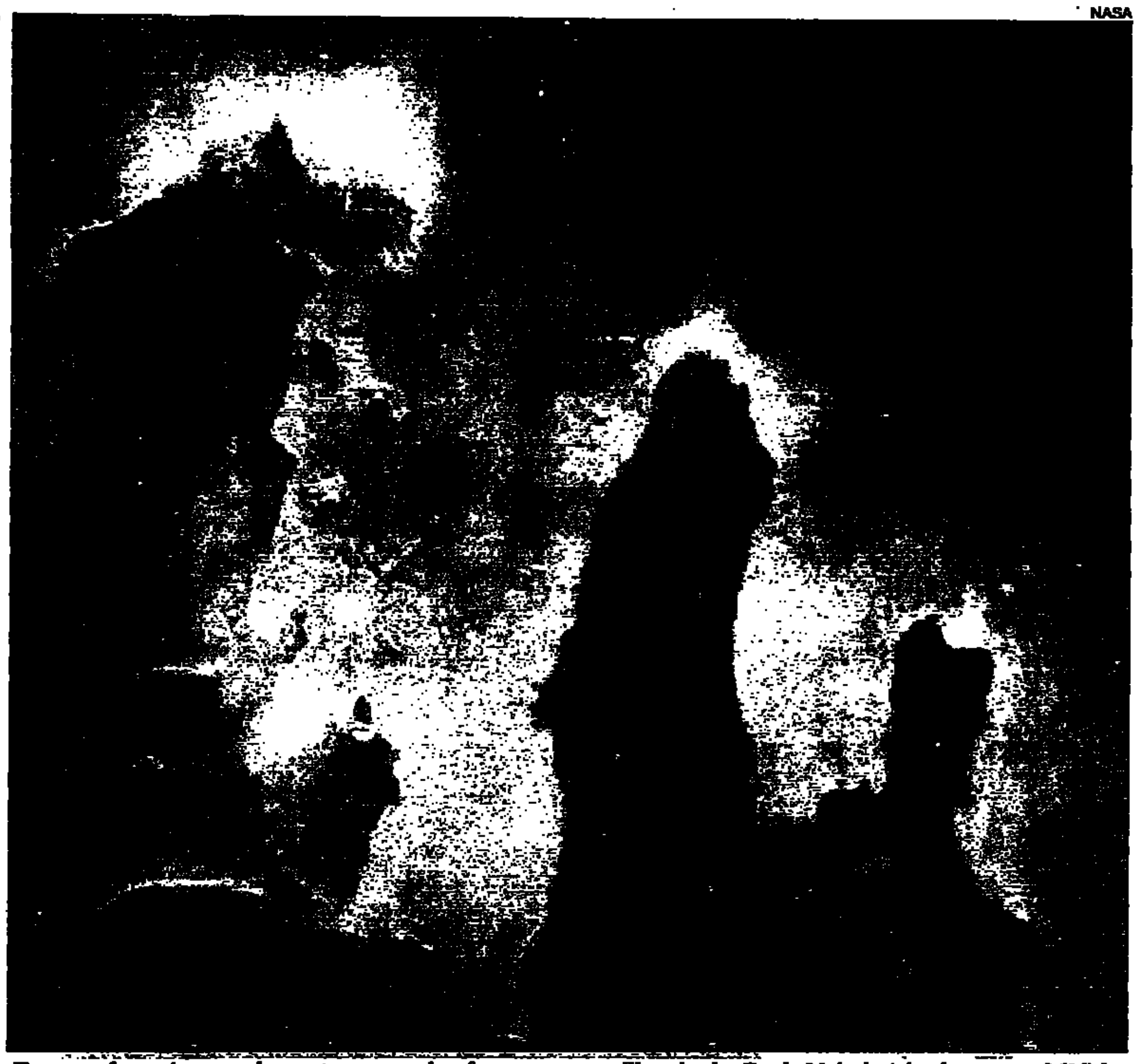
After the Oscar ceremony, Winslet resumed filming on *Hamlet*. "I was pleased that I had to come back to work," she says. "It meant I could go in, have this mad, dreamlike buzz, and then get back to reality." It also allowed her to buy a flat in north London which she shares with her friend Mel Gibson, a make-up artist ("That really honestly is her name") and move out of the accommodation she shared with five others and for which she paid £50 a week in rent.

Still, Winslet is now in the clutches of Hollywood, playing a Philadelphia sophisticate who has a shipboard affair with Leonardo DiCaprio in James Cameron's disaster-movie-cum-romance, *Titanic*. The film — due out next summer — will be Winslet's highest-profile work yet and, as her name spreads, her greatest challenge is to remember to be herself.

"With the hype going on around you all the time," she says, "it's another world; it becomes a battle to hang on to who I am. I don't have some career agenda of trying to climb a ladder to fame and fortune; I really don't. I've got to remember what my starting point is — that what I'm here for is to act."

● *Jude* opens on Friday

NASA



Towers of creation: newborn stars emerging from gaseous pillars in the Eagle Nebula (also known as M16) in the constellation Serpens, 7,000 light years away. The top right portion of the sky has not been surveyed

Postcards from the cosmic edge

The images of science seldom transcend their narrow purposes. The murky blots on Rosalind Franklin's X-ray images of DNA that gave evidence of its double helix structure are beautiful only with the eye of knowledge. Scanning electron microscope pictures of tiny creatures brings an unseen world to life, and integrated circuits, blown up, are reminiscent of Mondrian — but not many people would want them on their walls.

Not so the stunning pictures taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. An exhibition at the Blue Gallery in London and two recently-published books show that these striking images can touch both the scientific and the artistic sensibilities. Some have the luminous qualities of stained-glass windows, while others look like classy sets for a remake of *2001*.

Giles Baker-Smith, who runs the Blue Gallery, saw some of the Hubble images reproduced in newspapers, and was so impressed that he rang the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore to ask if he could mount a show. With its approval he picked a dozen or so of the most striking and had them dry-mounted on aluminium sheets.

They cost a fairly cosmic £795 for the larger images and £595 for the smaller ones, but the books contain many of the same pictures at a more affordable price.

One of the most famous is the eerily backlit image of the Eagle Nebula, also known as M16, which shows newborn stars emerging from towering columns of interstellar gas. Inside are denser concentrations of gas which are stars in the process of formation.

This picture was constructed from three images taken in different colours by the Wide Field and Planetary Camera which was installed in the space telescope at the end of 1993. Just to reassure you that the whole thing is not the work of an airbrush artist gone mad, black segments at the top indicate areas of the sky that were not surveyed.

The star of the show for me was the planetary nebula NGC 6543, nicknamed the Cat's Eye, a jellyfish-like bubble of bright red gas, whose overlapping clouds give a tremendous sense of depth.

To the artist, astronomer, or mere onlooker, these pictures are a most eloquent justification of space flight. They restore the sense of wonder in the sky that has been an inspiration through human history and is in danger of being lost amid the bright lights of the cities.

NIGEL HAWKES

● *The Blue Gallery is at 93 Walton Street, SW3, and the exhibition runs until October 5.* Gems of Hubble *(CUP, £8.95)*: Hubble's Universe *(Constable, £14.95)*

COUNTRY

Badlands busker

WITH a voice that sounds as if he gargles with industrial cleaning fluid, Terry Allen gave a compelling performance of his wry, witty and often plain weird songs, accompanied by piano, violin, accordion and mandolin.

The Texan troubadour's songs straddled the genres of American roots music, telling tales of life in the badlands along the Mexican border and achieving the unlikely feat of recreating the sweaty atmosphere of a Laredo bordello in a London basement.

Terry Allen
Borderline, W1

For almost two hours Allen poured out one inspired song after another, comic one minute, dark and bruising the next. In *The Collector in the Art Mall* he took a caustic look at his other career as an artist with the refrain, "You'd better look right, 'cos the art mob's out tonight". *Wilderness of this World* was a set of idiosyncratic musings on seeing an old discarded shoe on the highway. This is what John Steinbeck would have sounded like had he been a songwriter, though even he could probably not have come up with a line such as "My ego ain't my amigo any more".

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ENO

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Observer

"Rosa Mannion's Violetta is a remarkable, heart-wrenching achievement..."
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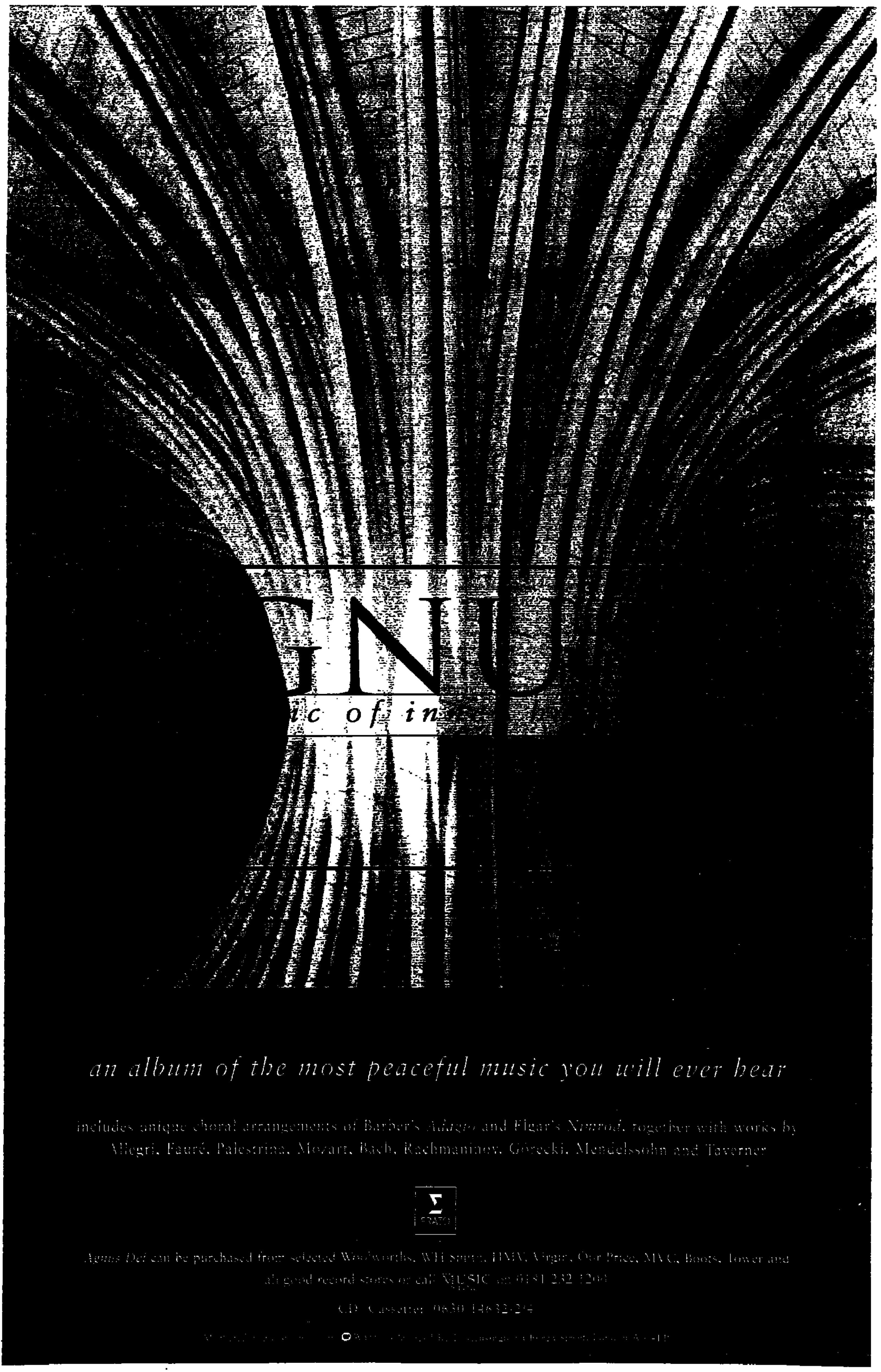

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Sun 29 Sept 7.00pm NB: time	STEVEN ISSERLIS cello, STEPHEN HOUGH piano Suk: Ballad & Serenade; Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata; Martinů: Variations on a Slovak Theme; Mustonen: Chanson Russe et Danse Oriental (world première); Rakhmaninov: Sonata in G Op.19 £15.00, £12.50, £10.00 only (all others sold) — Wigmore Hall
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Tues 1 Oct 1.05pm NB: time	ELIZAVETA KOPELMAN piano — Lunchtime Concert Haydn: Sonata in G HXVI:6; Skryabin: Deux poèmes Op.32 Schumann: Carnaval Op.9 £5 (concessions £3) — YCAT Supp by Lloyd's Music Foundation and the City of Westminster
Wed 2 Oct 7.30pm	OLLI MUSTONEN piano — London Pianoforte Series Beethoven: Letzter musikalischer Gedanke; Allegretto in C minor WoO53; Presto in C minor WoO52; Bagatelle Lustig-Traurig WoO54; 6 Bagatelles Op.126, Klavierstück in B minor WoO61; *Diabelli Variations* £14, £12, £9, £6 — *Wigmore Hall*
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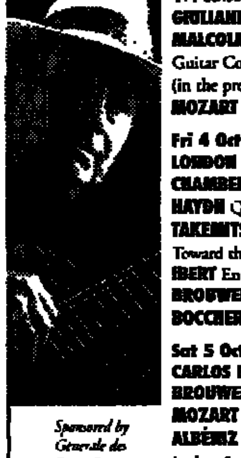

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MOZART Symphony No.39 in E flat, K543

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IBERT Entracte for flute and guitar
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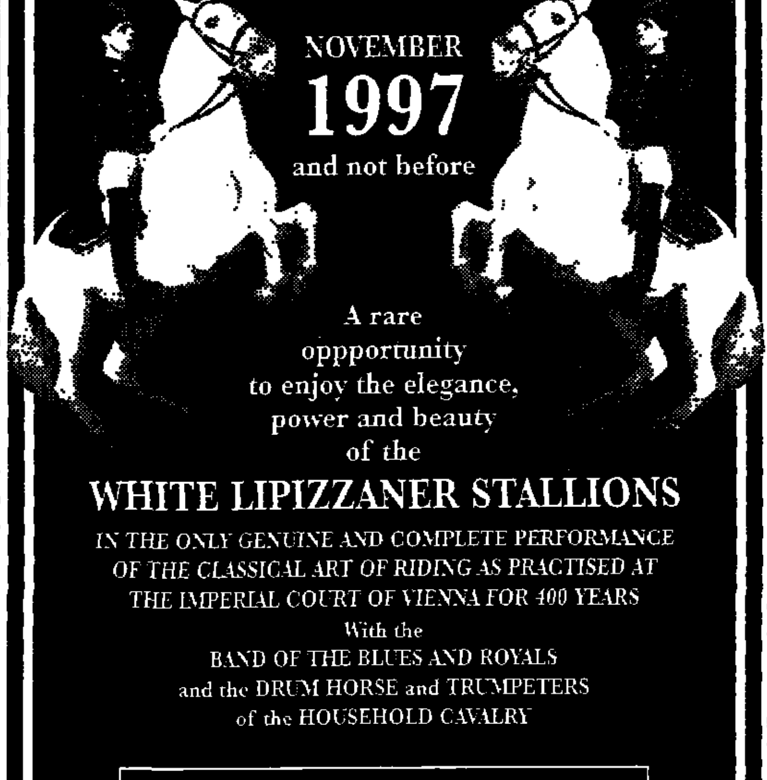

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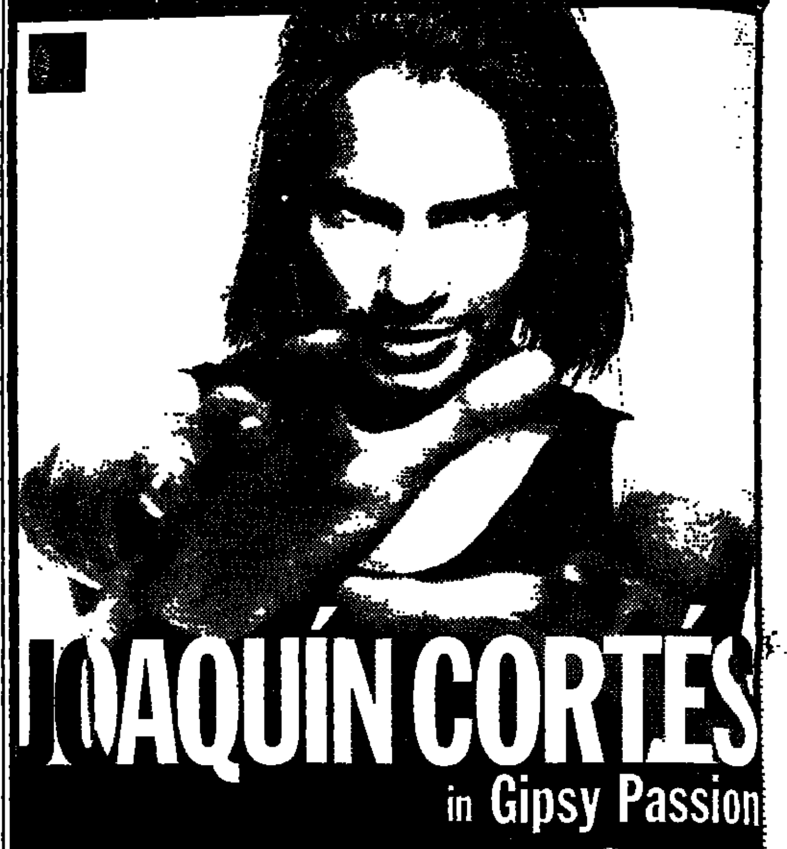

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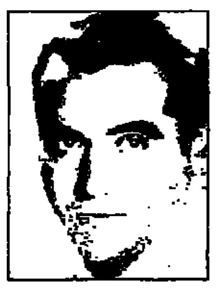
■ MUSIC

The Wigmore Hall celebrates the centenary of the Anglo-Spanish musical pioneer, Roberto Gerhard

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OPINION

A new 'habitable' bridge for London? Surely everybody would much rather see the return of the old one



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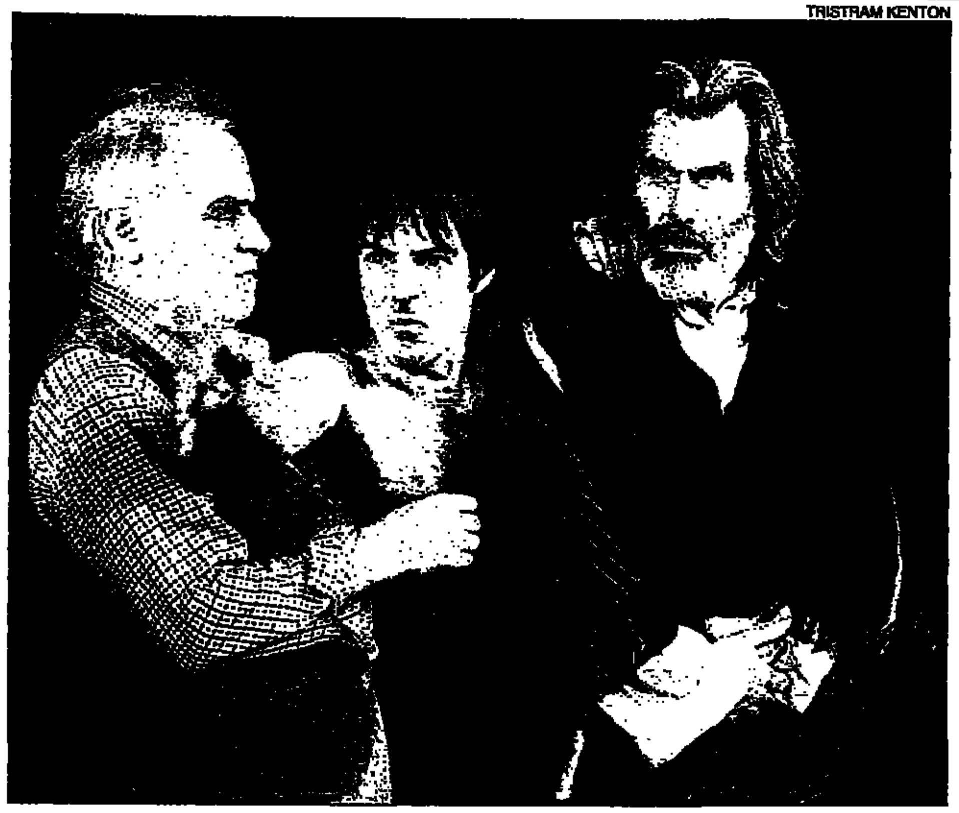

TRISTRAM KENTON

A long evening unfolds: (from left) Fred Pearson, Tom Radcliffe and Oliver Cotton

FIRST a complaint. I don't care that Richard Burbage, Gent, said "no interval" when he ran the old Globe. Audiences there were free to roam around, buy hazelnuts, troll and solicit behind the pillars of the gallery throughout a performance, and were not confined to seats that after 130 minutes induce that deadliest of theatrical tortures: the Iron Underpants.

Where to break this play is a vexed question, but flagging spirits can be revived and frozen posteriors thawed if the director makes the interval coincide with Lear's departure on to the blasted heath. Once out there, where the Poor Tom routine of Edgar (Tom Radcliffe) will turn the king's wits, and send audience sympathy plummeting, no convenient pause presents itself until he's off the heath again and into Act IV. In Jack Shepherd's production this takes 2 hours 10 minutes, and I cannot honestly say I was concentrating on subtleties of performance by that time.

Oliver Cotton is playing Lear, both looking and sounding gruffly regal. Grey-haired, with jutting beard and deep frown, he nonetheless allows himself moments of pawky humour at the beginning, floating such notions as crawling unburdened or sojourning amorously into the conversation with a catch in his breath that doesn't quite make the remark a joke, but allows it to be what society mags would call a pleasantry.

In truth this is a conversational court, where Lear chats to France across the corner of a pine table, and voices are never raised until Cordelia's fatal candour so infuriates her father that he sends the table flying, Kent into exile and his daughter off without a shilling. But Shepherd's conception of the play lacks excitement. The cast of 14 is large for a fringe production, though considerable doubling is still necessary, and often confuses the start of a scene.

When Lear at last goes mad, Cotton's delivery becomes clipped and precise. He smacks his lips over words, while a disconcertingly pleased expression beams from him. This effective passage is followed by the delicate tenderness of his recognition scenes with Chas Byer's Gloucester and Fred Pearson's Kent. Otherwise this is a long evening, although Jim Bywater's intelligent Fool is a consolation. Shakespeare would surely have liked the way he leads Lear out of the storm with a ballad sung to the tune of *The Sunny Side of the Street*.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT: A centenary celebration of the work of Roberto Gerhard at the Wigmore Hall

Tribute to a global villager

HUSHED voices replaced the usual clamour of the Wigmore Hall foyer, for this was a live broadcast on Radio 3, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Catalonian composer Roberto Gerhard. This was a fitting tribute: it was, after all, William Glock and the Third Programme who had championed Gerhard when he fled from Franco's Spain to England.

Gerhard's rejection of nationalism was to turn him into one of the most subtle and exuberant exponents of the musical pluralism of our century. And his music is seldom so satisfyingly celebrated as by a flexible chamber unit such as the Nash Ensemble.

For each Gerhard work, one by another composer was there to refract his bright light. After a thrillingly physical performance of his *Concert for 8*, Stravinsky's *Three Japanese Lyrics* faced Gerhard's *Seven Haiku* across the interval.

Rosemary Hardy was the soloist. In the Gerhard, her wide-ranging soprano floated above Michael Collins's aqueous clarinet. Hardy's skill as musical linguist heightened the eloquence of each supple phrase.

Gerhard's early arrangement of eight folksongs was rewardingly juxtaposed with Ian Brown's virtuoso performance of Manuel de Falla's farewell to "regional" music in the *Fantasia Baetica*. But most beguiling of all was Gerhard's *Leo* from 1969. Here, the power and energy of this zodiac sign is recreated in the sensuous resonances of woodwind, brass, celeste, piano and xylophones until, finally, it sings in a solo clarinet's spectre-like voice, to the dying fall of cello and percussion glissando.

HILARY FINCH

Selling the Thames down the river

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Can the public's opinion of architects sink any lower? Or, to put it another way, can the unshakeable self-esteem of our "top" architects rise any higher? Earlier this month, when Sir Norman Foster announced his plan to "improve" our capital with his vast, shiny new Millennium Tower — an edifice that would make Canary Wharf seem like a model of reticence — I thought that London had reached the point of ultimate folly.

In the old days, if you wanted to see how a mad, ruthless disdain for history, context and ordinary folk could ruin an ancient city, you took a package tour to Ceausescu's Bucharest or Stalin's Moscow. Soon, it seems, we will be zonked by gargantuan phallic status-symbols for megalomaniacs every time we enter the Square Mile.

But even dafter architectural "visions" have been revealed this week. First we learn that the British pavilion at the current Venice Biennale is devoted to a "celebration" of the new British Library: a building so overdue, over-budget and littered with botches (a government audit lists 230,000 faults) that its very name is a byword for fiasco. I can't think of a *worse* advertisement for British design. Yet it is flaunted by our architectural establishment at an international showcase.

Then came the announcement of the winning designs for a "habitable" Thames bridge near Blackfriars. You thought that London had enough offices and shops? Well, silly you. Our Environment Secretary has spotted a swath of central London that has regrettably escaped development, owing to the fact that it is inconveniently under water. "London's river is our most under-valued asset, and the time has come to value it properly," John Gummer boldly declared this week. You radical dude! The notion that one of the things to "value" about the Thames is the absence of huge bridges containing shops, offices and hotels apparently doesn't occur to the priceless Gum-Gum.

So seven "top international architects" were invited to design habitable bridges. The results? You can guess. There is the giant yellow-and-red metal worm, fashioned in a style best described as 1970s Nasa. There is the classic "cutprice coffin" look, very popular for 1950s bowling alleys. There are skyscrapers — one is twice as high as St Paul's — with bridges attached as afterthoughts, blatantly flaunting every undertaking to safeguard the Thames from more high-rise development. And of course there is a steel-and-glass shopping arcade, bringing a touch of Milton Keynes to one of the world's great river vistas.

Now the public has to vote on the two joint winners (shopping arcade versus skyscraper). Wonderful. Won't a boat trip down the Thames be fun in ten years' time? As I understand it, we are building a giant Ferris wheel advertising British Airways opposite the Houses of Parliament; a vast "crystal palace" advertising Sir Richard Rogers on the South Bank; a slice of Milton Keynes in the middle of the Thames; and a colossal tower to loom over St Paul's like a mugger menacing a granny. Why don't we plonk a 20-storey lorry park in Kew Gardens while we are at it? (No, no, Mr Gummer, that's a joke.)

Oddly enough, an excellent design for a habitable bridge across the Thames already exists. It would have huge educational and tourist potential, and be superbly scaled to the surrounding city. Go to the Museum of London and look at its model of London Bridge as it existed shortly before the Great Fire of 1666. What an astonishing project it would be to reconstruct it, close to the present London Bridge, in all its chimneyed, half-timbered glory. What a platform it would provide for cafés, shops and museums. What a thrilling link between the reconstructed Globe on the south bank and the Tower and St Paul's on the north. It would be London's premier tourist attraction.

A grotesque piece of fake heritage? No more so, surely, than the "new old" La Fenice now being reconstructed in Venice, or a hundred other famous monuments round the world that we accept as genuine when they are mostly scholarly conjectures. And I would wager a week's wages (well, let's say 50p) that — if we *must* have a habitable bridge — a superbly reconstructed Tudor crossing would win much more public acclaim than a floating piece of Milton Keynes. Go on, Mr Gummer, try something popular for a change. You do have an election to win, you know.

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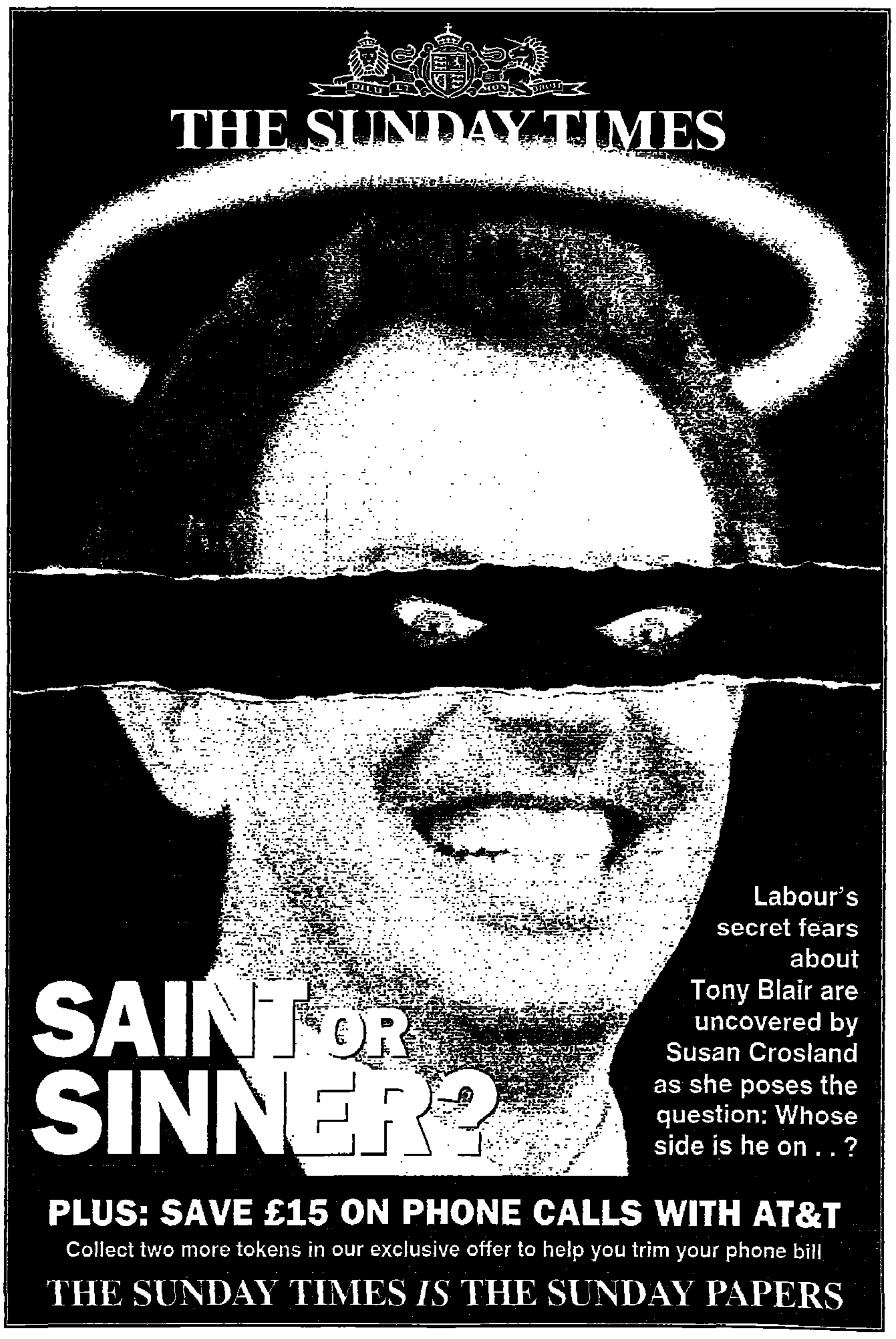

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Israel and the Arabs must go back to basics

Peace is about power, not glad-handing, says **David Pryce-Jones**

The conflict of interest between Israelis and Palestinians continues to have the potential to flare at any moment into a wider war, with unforseeable consequences. That is why the world community has expended such effort to resolve it.

The facts are intractable, trapping everyone. Both parties have legitimate rights and claims. In the circumstances diplomacy, overt or covert, is unable to replace force as the final arbiter. Finally, only the Israelis can empower the Palestinians; and in so doing, therefore, they would wish to be certain that they are not injuring themselves.

The Oslo Accords appeared to mark the victory of diplomacy over force. Shaking hands on the White House lawn to finalise the Accords, the leaders involved were no doubt sincere in praise of peace. Short-term advantages existed. The Gaza Strip is a slum as grim as any to be found, and the Israelis were grateful to be rid of it. The Palestinians believed that their empowerment was under way at last. But what might have looked like that elusive desirable thing, a "peace process", had been stitched together behind closed doors, in haste and without debate. Glad-handing in American style had replaced substance.

The future of the Settlers on the West Bank and the Golan Heights, as well as the map of Jerusalem, remained in the air. So-called "final status" talks were supposed to resolve these two crucial issues in due course. Not merely conventional fudging, here was an evasion of what really mattered. It was a repeat of what might be called the Gorbachev mistake, namely stating in advance desired ends, without prior certainty that the means to reach that end were available and feasible. The sense of entering a period of dangerous indecision has aroused fears and expectations, much as in the Soviet Union in its last stage.

Israeli Settlers on the West Bank and Golan Heights could only suppose that the very Government which in the first place had encouraged them to live there might soon remove them, or leave them under Palestinian rule — in short, sell them out. Conspiratorial rumours spread that the Rabin Government was striking further secret deals with Yassir Arafat and President Hafiz Assad. Fears of this sort incited the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, then the election of a Likud-led coalition under Binyamin Netanyahu.

The country is divided as never before. Those who believe that peace requires risking security are only on slanging terms with those who are convinced that the risks already undertaken have sown a coming war. Are not Palestinians firing guns which an Israeli Government authorised them to have? The risk-takers and the risk-repudiators are able to argue their cases with equal sincerity and merit. It is a prior condition of ending this deadlock that Israel decide what sort of country it wants to be. The terms it eventually reaches with the Palestinians will also determine its own identity.

For the Palestinians, it was only natural to conclude that immediate and increasing pressure might give them a better deal over Jerusalem, eliminate settlements and even ensure that the autonomy already promised would not stand in the way of such an eventuality. In the course of his visit to London this week, however, Netanyahu declared frankly that the Palestinians would never have a state of their own. Palestinians are best able to test out Israeli intentions or otherwise influence policy by taking to the streets, as they are now doing. Had there not been a contentious tunnel in the neighbourhood of the al-Aqsa mosque, some other pretext would have served. The silence, the hole at the heart of the Oslo Accords asked to be explored and exploited.

In mirror-image, the Palestinians are also uncertain on what terms they are willing to live with Israelis. In the days when they were under military occupation, they started the *intifada*, in effect a national movement in embryo. This was a success to the extent that it brought back to Palestinian territory Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But a large minority remained unwilling to deal with Israel on any terms of compromise. Eliminating such opponents by ruthless methods, censoring the press, denying civil rights, Arafat has revealed himself to be a dictator, however miniature in scale. Resumption of the *intifada* threatens him as much as it does the Israelis. Hasty words in Damascus, Cairo and even Riyadh, incite the Islamic and other extremists who are jostling to replace him.

The logic of a conflict of this type is severe and constricting. Carrying through with his mistake, Gorbachev placed himself in the predicament of having either to use force to have his way, or else to begin a process of power-sharing. When first the *intifada* broke out in 1987, over a road accident quite as wayward as the present disputed tunnel, Rabin in a notorious declaration promised to break bones. The means available proved inappropriate, and so — perhaps contrary to his inner convictions — he consented to the concept of power-sharing.

Resuming the intifada threatens Arafat as much as the Israelis

From that moment on, a community of interest between Israel and Arafat undoubtedly did emerge, to mutual benefit. The previous Labour governments, it may be argued, built too much on it, and the present Likud coalition too little. Entering office, Netanyahu let it be known that he was not anxious to meet Arafat; now he finds himself spurned. He too has the choice of whether to break bones or to establish a policy of power-sharing. To have tackled at Oslo and afterwards the easy issues while refusing to confront those on which compromise really seems beyond the wit of man, has encouraged self-deception all round. The sudden flaring level of violence reveals the depths of the self-deception.

Israelis and Palestinians may be doomed to go down the sterile murderous paths of Belfast and Beirut, whereby all are losers as the conflict of interest extends. In the attempt to control the future according to preconceptions, each community might also turn upon itself; those Jews who believe that God covenanted the West Bank on them versus the secular majority; and Hamas or Islamic Jihad fundamentalists versus nationalists.

The parties could prefer, however, to make another and clearer attempt to define what they mean by power-sharing and what sort of identities they each are able to accept. In that case, they will have first to marginalise idealogically motivated extremists of all varieties to prevent them from poisoning and sabotaging the outcome, as at present. Like other treaties botched up expediently and superficially, the Oslo Accords have been overtaken by its their inherent flaws.

David Pryce-Jones is the author of The Closed Circle: An Interpretation of the Arabs *(Paladin).*

Tony Blair is a lawyer; so are many of his circle. **Frances Gibb** investigates their influence

Labour's legal mafia

Today Labour's Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, will spell out the party's plans for lawyers and the legal system. His keynote address to 500 fellow barristers at their annual conference has been billed as a first public opportunity for lawyers to grill the man who could succeed Lord Mackay of Clashfern — architect of the most sustained attack this century on lawyers' restrictive practices.

In truth, today's gathering will be far from hostile. Lord Irvine — "Derry" to his friends — should feel very much at home. Still a successful silk, he would be the first Lord Chancellor for years to come directly from the practising ranks of the English legal profession; Lord Mackay, from the Scottish Bar, was always treated as an outsider. Barristers, too, are keen to cement their relationship with new Labour, not to alienate its likely leaders.

But whatever the public posturing, new Labour and the Bar already enjoy the cosiest of connections — probably the strongest between the legal (or any other) profession and any political party for decades. Tony Blair, of course, was a practising barrister before he turned to full-time politics. His wife, Cherie Booth, is a QC and happens this year to be vice-chairman of the Bar conference. Next year she could well be chair.

More crucially, Derry Irvine, both QC and politician, is a close friend of the Blairs. It is likely that, for the first time in a Labour administration, both the Prime Minister and the most senior Cabinet member will come from the ranks of the Bar.

Blair and Irvine go back a long way. It was in Lord Irvine's chambers, then at 2 Crown Office Row in the Temple, that the Blairs met. Both were then his pupils; three years later they married. Proposing a toast at the wedding in 1980, Lord Irvine described himself as Cupid QC. Mr Blair, whose father was also a lawyer, was attracted to Lord Irvine's chambers as a leading set in labour law, although he himself cut his teeth on commercial cases, while Miss Booth has built up a large practice in employment and public law.

So the power axis between new Labour and the law was born. According to Mr Blair's biographer Jon Soper, Derry Irvine has been his most important mentor. From him the young Tony learnt how to "analyse and confront problems and how to marshal arguments in debate". Mr Blair himself says of Lord Irvine: "His contribution to my intellectual development was enormous." He gave Mr Blair the confidence to question the party's long-cherished beliefs.

Lord Irvine, in turn, is fulsome about Mr Blair: "He was a brilliant lawyer. A complete natural. He had a tremendous talent for assimilating very quickly complex material and I have no doubt at all that he would be a QC by now if he'd stuck with the law." They still speak often. During Mr Blair's rise to the leadership, Lord Irvine has been a source of advice and support.

The connections go wider than the Irvine-Blair one. The party front bench includes another three barristers: Jack Straw, John Morris and Paul Boateng. In the Lords, there is Lord Williams, QC, former Bar chairman. Not only are several leading Labour politicians lawyers, such as Harriet Harman, but a number of influential lawyers are openly supporters of new Labour. Anthony Julius — Diana, Princess of Wales's highly successful divorce lawyer, Eliot scholar and tipped as a future fixer for Mr Blair, as Arnold Goodman was for Harold Wilson — is a prominent member of the Fabian Society. Then there are Peter Goldsmith, QC, former Bar chairman; James Goudie, QC, who chairs the Bar's law-reform committee; and Gavin Millar, brother-in-law to Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell. Then there are family and friends: Bill Blair, Tony's elder brother, is a leading banking QC and his sister is in legal publishing. Friends include the solicitors Maggie Rae and Henry Hodge, and the barrister Charles Falconer, QC.

What difference will it make? Clearly Labour leaders have to tread carefully to avoid any charge of Shadow kitchen Cabinets; Cherie Booth drew instant media flak when she said, at a launch of Labour papers on the law, that Lord Irvine "will be the next Lord Chancellor". This is not nepotism: he would be Labour's choice for the post regardless of the Blairs. But it seems as if older influences on Labour — the unions and the block vote — are being supplanted by more sophisticated lobbying in Temple corridors and at dining tables of the Inns of Court.

That intelligence network is already detectable. The Bar's contacts have enabled it to hone its policies in line with Labour's proposals on improving access to justice. There are still points of difference: Lord Irvine and Paul Boateng have signalled that they want to tackle remaining restrictive practices — rules which stop lawyers setting up multi-disciplinary partnerships with other professions, and which prevent clients from briefing barristers direct. But the power of the legal lobby to stymie unwelcome legislation, should it emerge, has probably never been greater.

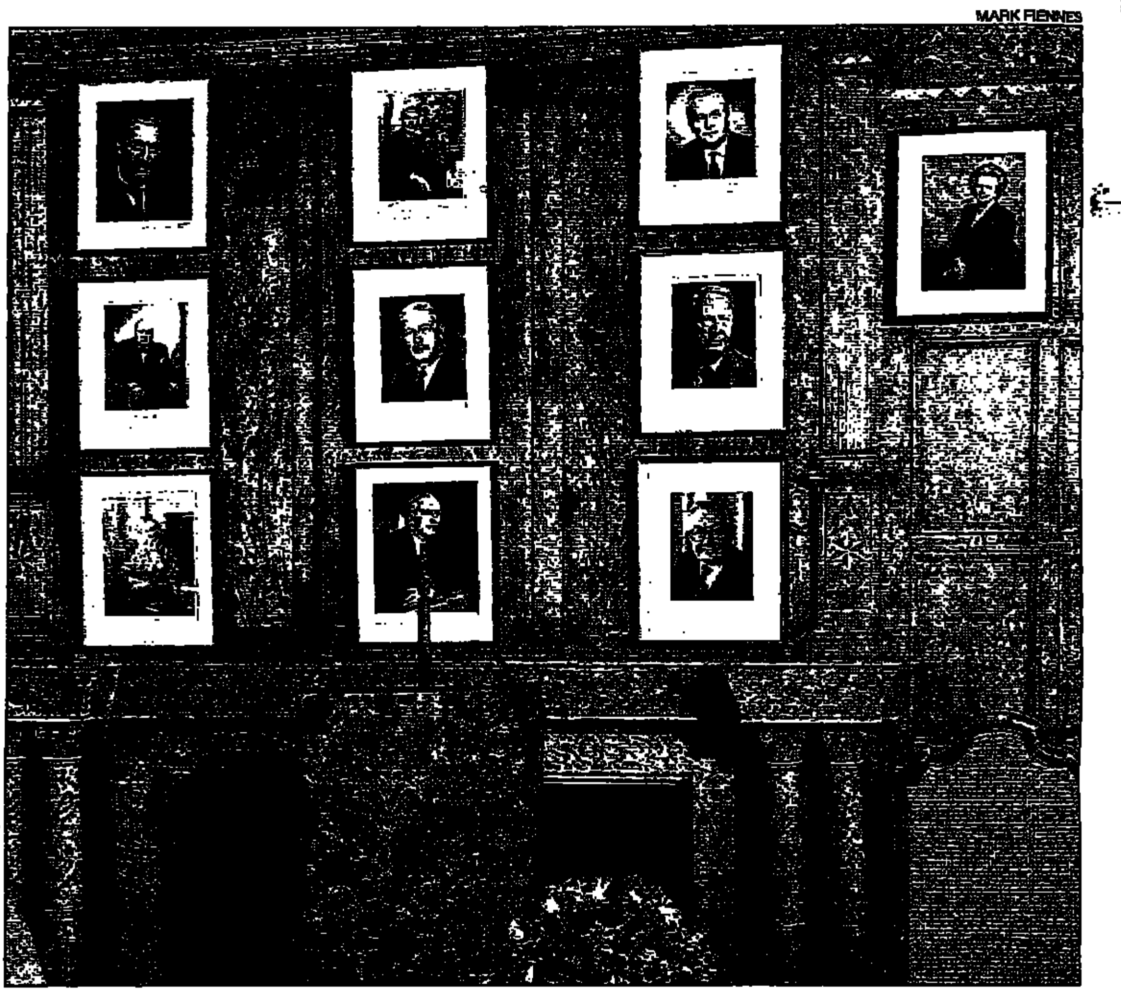
Would Labour re-examine the role of the Attorney General (who is *ex officio* also head of the Bar) and consider disbanding his department? What of reforming the way judges are appointed? As Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine could even find himself responsible for recommending Ms Booth for judicial appointment. And would Labour support granting advocacy rights to Crown prosecutors?

Today, the message Lord Irvine will drive home to the Bar is: expect no favours from a Labour administration. Experience has shown, though, that the strength of the lawyers' club cuts across party-political boundaries. The Bar succeeded in diluting Lord Mackay's reforms to the extent that some still are not in place. If Labour wins the election, the Bar will have unrivalled, and perhaps unprecedented access to the seats of power.

Poor ghosts of Chequers

The Prime Minister's country retreat is a chameleon of a house

Simon Jenkins



MARK FIENNES

Former premiers at Chequers: John Major will be added when he leaves office

Norma Major is coming out. Her pleasant face peers, slightly bemused, from behind the curtain of privacy she has maintained so long. An election is in the offing and a Battle of the Spouses has been declared. She is "doing the rounds", Central Office minder in tow. But this is no Hillary versus Elizabeth. Britain's political womenfolk duel not with heartstrings but with literature. Cherie Booth guest-edits a woman's magazine. Mrs Major writes between hard covers. The one is a stunt, the other is Milton's "precious lifeblood of a master spirit". It is Round One to Mrs Major. Despite three pictures of its author in the introduction alone, *Chequers* is a serious work. Indeed, this is one of the best country house histories on the shelf.

I have visited Chequers only once, to see Margaret Thatcher shortly before her fall. The October evening was drawing in and Denis was away walking the dog in the gloom. We talked in the great hall while women soldiers loomed out of dark recesses carrying tea. Outside, huge beeches waved angrily at an impending storm. Inside the Prime Minister did the same. Her era was tottering. Devils were at the gates, in the forms of Michael Heseltine and Saddam Hussein. Mr Heseltine was the more menacing. The old house wore its heart on its sleeve. The place was palpably sad.

Chequers is a chameleon, forced to change its colour to that of each occupant. Its rambling "Tudorbethan" style is ideal for this purpose. A Palladian house would be wrong, an inflexible platform better suited for the ceremonials of a grandee or a monarch. The Prime Minister is estate manager to the nation. His is a job of parlours and kitchens, cupboards and closets, secret passages and false bookshelves. The office has evolved as required. Like Chequers, it is informal, private, hedged-in, surrounded by familiar contours and not given to long views.

When Lord Lee gave Chequers to the nation in 1921, the old house seemed conscious of its destiny. It was not *for* the Prime Minister, it was meant in part to *be* the Prime Minister. Lee saw the house as buttressing the conservative gradualism of the central organ of Government. Chequers was architectural psychotherapy. The trust deed was explicit: "It is not possible to foresee or foretell from what classes or conditions of life the future wielders of power will be drawn... To the revolutionary statesman, the antiquity and calm tenacity of Chequers and its annals might suggest some saving virtues in the continuity of English history." The house was that old English foible: the city is a disease that the country must cure. It embodied Wilde's sardonic maxim, "Anybody can be good in the country".

Norma Major handles her complex story with panache. She offers a scholarly account of the old Tudor house and its occupants. She charts the Lee family's mixed motives in making the donation to a grudging Lloyd George. Lee duly won a peerage, though it hardly came cheap. Admirable photographs illustrate the changing decoration of the rooms, including new ones by Mark Fiennes. My one quibble is the absence of a plan, which makes the architectural section confusing (a plan is in the new Pevsner on Buckinghamshire, which the author does not acknowledge).

Mrs Major is at her best in relating the political life of Chequers. True, there is a rich cast of characters on which to draw, but she is neither sentimental nor overawed. The joy, the sadness and the sheer exhaustion of high office race across her screen. The occasional potted histories are well controlled and never more than the backdrop requires. There is no stinting on the anecdotes.

Thus we see Lloyd George summoning the striking miners to dinner and being warned that they will occupy the place come the revolution. Baldwin brings together Sinn Fein and the Ulster Protestants and seats his formidable wife between them, "too fat to be a bone of contention". Maurice Hankey thought Chequers would have "a marvellous effect on these Labour people". Charlie Chaplin duly comes to stay and finds Ramsay MacDonald in plus fours. MacDonald is soon inviting titled ladies to stay, while spurning the infuriated Webbs. Chamberlain chases moths through the gardens. Churchill watches movies in the library.

The well-known stories stay fresh under Mrs Major's pen. Churchill stages a guard of honour for the visiting Molotov. The Russian does not know how to salute and gives Churchill's V-sign the wrong way round. Pompidou arrives on a Friday evening in weekend tweeds. He finds his hosts still in dark suits and races upstairs to don the same for dinner. They race upstairs to don tweeds. African leaders are terrified of four-poster beds and insist on returning urgently to London after dinner. Nixon's bodyguards trace the Chequers water to a local spring and demand bottled water to be piped to the bedroom. Margaret Thatcher refuses to heat the Annenberg swimming pool as too costly, and insists that the cook use up every one of the King of Morocco's annual gift of dates.

No tale is as poignant as that of Selwyn Lloyd. Macmillan, who rarely used Chequers, let his friend stay there for almost five years after his divorce. In the 1962 night of the long knives, Selwyn Lloyd was sacked as Chancellor despite having been promised the job until the election. He was wretchedly evicted from Chequers but did not take his labrador, Sambo, to his new home. When the new Cabinet first met for a Chequers photograph, its members found Sambo sniffing round their ankles, bleakly searching for his fallen master. Chequers must have many ghosts of Banquo.

The book is full of engaging touches. Each occupant and important visitor plants a tree. Douglas-Home has a walnut, Heath a beech, Thatcher a lime and Major an oak. Thatcher's old foe, Helmut Schmidt, has a chestnut and Yeltsin a black poplar. Whether these choices are intended to evoke character or aspiration, Mrs Major does not say, nor who decides.

The motto of Chequers is, "All care abandon ye who enter here." It has rarely been obeyed. Prime ministers now bring their cares with them in boxes, motorcades, seminars and strategy sessions. The house has become more an extension of Downing Street than a retreat from it. Macmillan was the first to install a conference table. A "Chequers weekend" has become synonymous not with gardening and relaxed company but with state visits, long-term thinking and political tactics. The house is a sort of Sunningdale for No 10.

While Hankey saw Chequers as taming those in power, Lord Haldane had the opposite worry. He feared that the place was out of touch and "would prove a dangerous distraction". Prime Ministers had been in the habit of seeing colleagues informally in London on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Haldane thought Chequers would encourage cliques and house-party favouritism.

I imagine that the danger is the opposite. It was always absurd to envisage a modern politician improving his mind by sitting on a Chiltern hillside, imbibing Virgil and Thoreau and chatting estate management with the agent. The dynamic of Chequers is already drawing political pressure and media hysteria up the A41, to lay siege to the Buckinghamshire hedgerows and infect the pubs and byways. Soon a prime minister will long for another escape. Perhaps what he really needs is a true bolthole, a "willow cabin at the gate", not a country house but a prime ministerial cottage. Perhaps some kind soul will oblige. If so, I hope Norma Major writes the book.

THE TIMES DIARY

No entry

NEW LABOUR has finally shown its old guard the door. *Socialist Worker*, preserve of duffle-coated pickets and readers of *Das Kapital*, has been banned from the Labour Party conference for the first time.

Labour has refused its reporters accreditation for the conference which starts tomorrow. The *Worker* will not be sold in the conference precinct and its representatives haven't been allocated a stand.

"We have been overwhelmed by the request for passes so some people have had to do without," says a Labour frontman. "What they do on the street we can do nothing about."

The duffle coats are angry. "There'll be 500 people from the BBC but not one from our outfit," said one. "It's outrageous."

Hazel Croft, whose application to report on the conference was refused, is sharpening her pencil nevertheless. "What really shocks us is that our readership is not deemed worthy enough for Labour," she said. "We're going to report the conference in any case."

"Can I return this football strip — my team lost"

Trunks call

WE MUST be grateful that Lord Longford survived the recent ordeal in his swimming pool when he almost drowned, for he is a man to cheer the soul — although occasionally a little absent-minded.

On another occasion at the poolside, I was told recently, the nonagenarian peer emerged from the changing room in his towelling robe. As he approached his thronging family in the pool, he undid the cord — at which point his wife looked up, saw him and said matter of factly: "Trunks, Frank." The noble lord duly turned back to the changing room: "Completely forgot," he muttered.

Longford: forgetful

Frock fright

THE COMPLETE fashion nightmare nearly struck at Tommy Hilfiger, the modish American designer, who is showing some of his clothes during London Fashion Week. Hilfiger, whose cologne is worn by Bill Clinton, is a notorious perfectionist. So, when British Customs held up a consignment of Hilfiger's latest range due to be shown in London, this was no ordinary disaster.

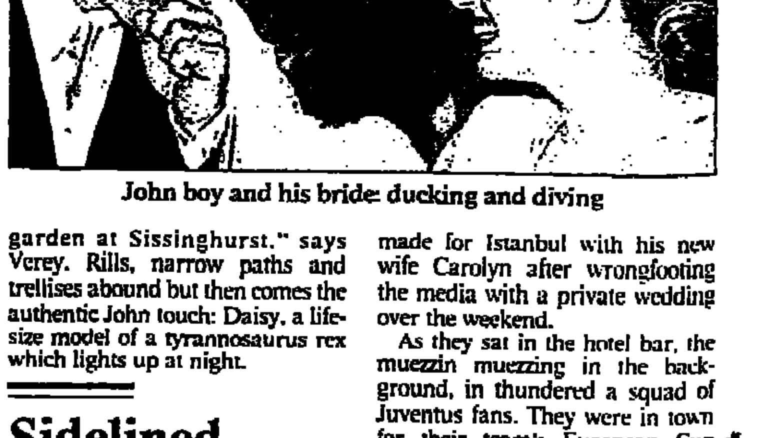
Were the clothes really just for show, or were they for sale, asked the Customs officers, threatening to impound the kit in front of an increasingly flustered fashion team. As time passed, the deadline for the show closed in. Finally, the customs team gave the nod and Hilfiger's team left the airport, flustered but with their goods.

● *For her appearance on Thursday night's* Question Time, *Harriet Harman, new Labour's Mary Poppins, was nothing less than well prepared. Behind her grating, schoolmarmish manner and hardly satisfying answers, lay four weeks of briefings and advice. By comparison, most Cabinet Ministers give the show no more than an afternoon's thought.*

Elton's monster

PERFORMING rather than taste has always been Elton John's forte, but in a new television series about celebrity gardens comes yet more evidence of his eclecticism. In *The English Country Garden*, to be shown next month on the BBC, Rosemary Verey takes the viewer round John's backyard, which she also designed.

"Elton was keen to have a white garden, and when I started work on it I had in mind the white garden at Sissinghurst," says Verey. Rills, narrow paths and trellises abound but then comes the authentic John touch: Daisy, a life-size model of a tyrannosaurus rex which lights up at night.



John boy and his bride: ducking and diving

Sidelined

GOOD news for all those heartbroken over the loss of John Kennedy Jr to marriage. His honeymoon has been interrupted by the fans of Juventus football team. John Jr, the cat's pyjamas to legions of women, made for Istanbul with his new wife Carolyn after wrongfooting the media with a private wedding over the weekend.

As they sat in the hotel bar, the muezzin muezzing in the background, in thundered a squad of Juventus fans. They were in town for their team's European Cup match against Fenerbahçe of Istanbul. The Kennedys hot-tailed it back to their room to cries of "*Forza Juve*" and have since submerged from view.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل .

THE MIND'S GARDEN

A writer's salute to our wild British beauty

"Now o'er the one half world, Nature seems dead," declared Macbeth. Throughout the British countryside there are threats to native flowers, to spider orchids, groundpine, hairy mallows and even bluebells. While conservationists fight to keep species out of danger, and even alive, one writer about the countryside is fighting a different battle — to keep our British plant life alive in our minds.

When Richard Mabey began work on his *Flora Britannica*, the remarkable work which we begin serialising in our *Weekend Section* today, he was uncertain whether Britons today still kept up any of the traditional sense and beliefs about their flowers and trees. Did any of our children still suck honey from white dead-nettle on the roadside? Did they celebrate Oak Apple Day any more? Did they put a sprig of heather under their mattresses for luck?

He appealed for answers on television and in the press; and the answers came pouring in. To all the questions above there came a decisive yes — and Mabey unearthed thousands more examples of ways in which plants still form part of our culture. This book will not only be valuable as a record. It provides a model for ways in which we can "rub along" naturally with nature.

Mabey instances not only positive examples, such as "Fritillary Day" in a village in Oxfordshire, when the locals are allowed into a field where the beautiful snake's-head fritillaries grow and can pick them to help charity. He is equally approving of the people of Tamsworth in Staffordshire. There, when a young man crashed into a tree in his car and was killed, the mourners went and revengefully hacked it down.

Conservation of nature is important. It takes up the energies of many people today and that energy will never be enough. But the conservation of birds and plants does not always seem to entail any strong feelings about them, or even any pleasure in them. Many conservation scientists seem more concerned with numbers than with the individual birds and flowers. Some ornithologists are unable to go out into the countryside without grieving over the decline of a species, rather than enjoying the members of it that are still singing and nesting in the hedges.

Pleasure must precede conservation, or conservation itself will not continue. There is an excellent scheme under way now in the National Trust to take children from the inner cities out to visit their properties and acquaint them with the countryside. The trust has found that sometimes not only the children, but their parents too, have never in their lives ventured further than the city streets.

The charity Common Ground, which helped Mabey with his book, has done much good work in encouraging people to take an interest in their environment, both in town and country. It has inspired hundreds of local groups to make maps of their streets or villages, registering the sites of plants and the haunts of birds and animals, as well as any human customs or practices connected with wildlife. These groups have not only produced maps on paper, but also models, embroideries and other kinds of record.

It is no use trying artificially to produce new folklore. Perhaps Common Ground goes too far when it organises Tree Decoration Days, on which the locals are urged to deck selected trees with every kind of ornament. But we can applaud the farmer whose fields were over-run by ragwort, the tall, venomous flower that causes half the cases of stock poisoning in Britain. He sold it in his farmshop as "summer gold" — and it went home to hundreds of town vases. And if your cow suffers ragwort-fever, try ivy, as Mabey reports from Shropshire; or just read some John Clare and hope that his "humble flower" will "litter gold" in our minds for many more centuries to come. One more way to "rub along" with nature.

COMMONWEALTH WEAKNESS

The message from New York to Nigeria must be clear

Commonwealth foreign ministers meet this evening in New York to decide whether to go ahead with the sanctions they threatened to impose on Nigeria in May. All the signs are that they will fear to confront the issue. The eight-nation Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group has repeatedly warned General Sani Abacha that, unless he admits a fact-finding delegation and gives it full opportunity to talk to the opposition, to political prisoners and to all those agitating for the restoration of democracy, it will recommend the immediate imposition of a range of punitive measures. The recent barren visit by Commonwealth Secretariat officials have now confirmed that General Abacha is determined to thwart any such visit. Morally and politically Nigeria now deserves the full weight of the Commonwealth's condemnation.

There is little hope, however, that the New York meeting will reach this conclusion. The Action Group is itself hopelessly divided. Members such as Canada are losing patience with Nigeria's prevarications, and say that only a tough approach will bring results. But others, especially the Africans, are now back-pedalling, worried by the precedent of intervention into an African country's affairs and suspicious that under the guise of human rights white Commonwealth nations are trying to tell black members how to run their countries.

To avoid an open split, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General, has been doing all he can to play down the threat of sanctions in order to get a dialogue started. But there is little room for compromise. Unless the delegation is allowed access to Chief Moshood Abiola, General Olusegun Obasanjo and others detained without trial, it might as well stay at home. It is still unclear whether the ministers would be able to tell General Abacha face-to-face of the strength of feeling in the Commonwealth.

Nigerians themselves are increasingly in despair. The country is falling into ruin, plundered by thieving politicians, terrorised by criminal gangs and lawless soldiers, abandoned by civil servants with neither the money nor the incentive to repair the crumbling infrastructure. The finest writers, doctors, thinkers and public servants have left. Nigerian business is now so corrupt, its extortions and attempts to solicit brides abroad now so blatant, that few Western investors see any point in risking their capital. Demonstrations and strikes have proved ineffective. And even the determination by the Commonwealth to force a showdown has melted away.

General Abacha is ready to sit out the confrontation, counting on weariness and indifference overseas to undermine sanctions. In truth, however, the measures proposed were never more than pinpricks, irritants to Nigeria's pride rather than threats to the junta's income and privileges. *Only a freezing of all their ill-gotten assets overseas, coupled with an oil embargo, would hurt.*

Britain, which still does good trade with Nigeria, has simply wrung its hands, insisting that such a move would never work as long as America buys 40 per cent of its oil from Nigeria. The Commonwealth appears more worried by the appearance of unity among its members than in following up its declarations with action that becomes more necessary by the day.

MICHAELMAS LEGIONS

'Michael and his angels fought against the dragon' *Revelation*

Michaelmas, the Feast of St Michael and all Angels, can seem little more than a traditional name for the autumn term in the legal and academic world. Yet the angels have not left us; these legions of spiritual beings still haunt our imaginations, and not only at Christmas.

In an early novel, *The Time of the Angels*, Iris Murdoch commented that "when God is dead, then the angels are abroad" — a hint that when belief in God as the creator and sustainer of the universe wanes, then there is a vulnerability to domination by lesser spiritual powers. The world of science fiction confirms a readiness to discern a world populated by varieties of super-human beings.

The biblical word "angel" in both Hebrew and Greek means "a messenger". The story in *Genesis* of Jacob's dream portrays the angels of God moving up and down a ladder between Heaven and Earth. The increasingly elaborate pictures of heaven in Jewish apocalyptic literature depict the angels as members of a heavenly court, absorbed in prayer and praise. Satan himself originates as the member of that court with a licence from God to test and try the servants of God, as in the *Book of Job*.

The cherubim, who bear up the chariot-throne of God, are strange winged creatures, like the winged bull-gods of Assyria — a far distance from the pudgy *putti* of baroque art. The seraphim, or the "burning, fiery guard the awesome majesty of the Divine Presence. As God becomes depicted less anthropomorphically, and so is seen as more mysterious and remote, the religious imagination elaborates the realm of angelic beings — nine orders from angels and archangels up to the cherubim and seraphim.

The Greek world also thought of intermediate beings, the *daemons*. As this language passed into Christian discourse, the angels and the *daemons* came to be opposed, the personifications of the powers of good and evil. Angels represented hierarchy and order, a sacred order through which the light of God shines, and which is the ladder by which we are drawn to reflect his likeness. Hierarchy may not be a popular word today, but the sacred order of which it speaks is, we should remember, that which stands opposed to anarchy. It is not a rigid imprisonment, but the service of the God of love which St Augustine dared to call our perfect freedom.

The war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the forces of evil, represented by the dragon, is a spiritual warfare between the uniting and transforming principle of sacrificial love, and the divisive and destructive anarchy whose allure is a specious and deceitful freedom. To believe in angels is to believe that human beings are not the only personal order created by God, and that God acts towards us through these intermediaries, the agents of his love and his

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Unequal quality of school standards

From Mr Michael Stern, MP for Bristol North West (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Skidelsky's article, "Let sink schools go private" (September 20; see also letters, September 23), was penetrating in its analysis of the continuing failure of governments for the last hundred years to deliver a remotely acceptable state education system in our cities, but less convincing in its conclusions.

It quite rightly pointed out that the present system encourages cheating. When government, local authorities, teachers and administrators all have a vested interest in seeing examination standards "rise" every year, it is hardly surprising if the real quality of education takes second place.

Yet in the mid-1980s, when the late Lord Joseph, as Secretary of State for Education, made the modest proposal of external and measurable criteria for each grade at public examinations, it was that same education establishment which ensured that his idea was buried as quickly and as deep as possible. Of course we all welcome rising numbers and grades of examination passes, since they make everyone feel comfortable; what they have to do with the quality of education is more doubtful.

I must also part company with Lord Skidelsky's sadly predictable conclusion that education vouchers would solve these problems. Without selection of pupils by schools, vouchers (which can be enforced as a method of payment) can only lead to a decline in the quality of those schools that are already oversubscribed; with selection, they become an irrelevance. This is why authorities enforce catchment areas (sorry, "areas of prime responsibility") and "admissions criteria" on already popular schools; it is also why there is no quick answer to the decline in educational standards other than the slow process of raising them in as many schools as possible.

Currently misspent funds (as Lord Skidelsky rightly implies, there is no real shortage of money in the system) need to be reapplied towards providing each school with the teachers and materials the school judges that it needs. The intervention of national cartels — such as pay review bodies, union recognition agreements and standard conditions of service — can only hinder this process.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STERN,
House of Commons.
September 22.

From Mr Mark Hurst

Sir, Lord Skidelsky's article, it seems to me, is based on the dangerous premise that educational standards can only be judged on examination results. Should not the quality of education be judged more by the relative concept of "value added" than by such absolute measures?

GCSE and A-level results inevitably reflect the contrasting cohorts of pupils that enter the two systems. The intake of independent schools tends to come from financially privileged families with high-achieving parents and by offering a varied range of fiscal incentives these schools attract the most able students. If state schools had similar intakes and class sizes, there is no reason why equivalent, if not better, results could not be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HURST,
Winton Fields, Winton Street,
Alfriston, nr Polegate, East Sussex.

From Sir Cyril Taylor, Chairman of the Technology Colleges Trust

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article supporting neighbourhood comprehensive schools, "Devil take the rejects" (September 18), fails to address a number of key issues.

Despite the general improvement in examination results, one third of 16-year-olds do not achieve even one A to C grade at GCSE. These low-achievers are generally concentrated in some 500 inner-city comprehensives where overall standards are low, and which are unpopular with parents. It is clearly unfair to *require* pupils to attend these schools simply because their parents live nearby.

By contrast, some one third of comprehensives are popular, receiving many more applications than they have places. Inevitably they have to choose their pupils. To try to turn the clock back by restricting the number of applications to popular schools by reducing the size of their catchment area would be an unfair and retrograde step.

Since secondary school pupils have different interests, abilities and aptitudes there should be a wide choice of different types of schools. This doesn't mean bringing back an 11-plus style of education and dividing schools into selective and non-selective; a school can still be comprehensive in its intake while offering a particular curriculum focus, as do the new technology and language colleges. Indeed in an ideal world every school would have a particular curriculum strength to offer.

A decent education will not be achieved by requiring some unfortunate parents to send their children to a poor school. The answer is surely either to close failing schools, perhaps reopening them under new management, or to require them to improve their standards.

Yours sincerely,
CYRIL TAYLOR, Chairman,
Technology Colleges Trust,
37 Queen's Gate, SW7.

Night at the opera — or perhaps not

From Mrs Ailene S. Hunter

Sir, I am delighted that Rodney Milnes (Arts, September 23) appreciates and has drawn attention to the difficulties posed for those Wagner addicts who live beyond commuter distance of Covent Garden, by the Royal Opera's *Ring* cycles being so spaced out. Even the more compact third cycle is spread over ten days (October 24 to November 2).

In contrast, New York's Metropolitan Opera advertises at least one cycle for 1997 which will be completed over six nights.

Having been deprived of the third and fourth instalments of a Jones/Lowery *Ring* locally at Scottish Opera a few years ago, I would have been particularly interested to be able to see that team's later, complete view as produced by this "national" opera company our taxes help to fund.

Given the relatively high cost of tickets for Covent Garden and of internal flights and accommodation in this country, a trip to New York could be the most economical option in both time and expense for those living outwith the London area.

Yours faithfully,
AILENE S. HUNTER,
7 The Grove,
Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.
September 24.

From Mr John Crompton

Sir, Your report (later editions, September 26) of the withdrawal by Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu from *La Bohème* at Covent Garden mentions that Alagna also withdrew from two performances of *Don Carlos* in the summer.

Earlier in the year the singers due to appear in the title roles of *Aida* and *Arabella* also withdrew after the tickets had gone on sale.

To be sure of hearing favourite singers it is necessary to book several months in advance. However, refunds are not made if artists cancel.

I have been affected three times this year because of Covent Garden's hapless track record. I am now reluctant to commit my time and money.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CROMPTON,
14d Donovan Avenue, N10.
September 26.

From Mr George Clare

Sir, Having spent the previous evening at the Royal Opera House, I was encouraged by your report from the Liberal Democrat Conference, "Cardigans give way to bright young suits" (September 24), indicating that the shabby look may not necessarily be the politically correct one.

Possibly the example set by the young politicians, who decided to wear apparel appropriate to the occasion at their conference, may eventually influence, and for the better, the kind of lumpen bohemians I saw in the audience at the performance of *La Bohème*.

Crumpled shirts and sweaty pullovers hanging loosely over jeans are not the most suitable attire to enhance the festive spirit of an otherwise not at all cheap visit to Covent Garden.

I dare say gentlemen of England so arrayed are making some kind of statement, especially the very tall gent in floppy shirt and trousers who wore a working-class cloth cap, albeit turned the wrong way round, during the entire evening. But what is it?

The management of the Royal Opera House might well give some thought to this not all that minor matter, if not for now then for its refurbished future.

I am, Sir, yours etc,
GEORGE CLARE,
6/8 The Street,
Dalham, Newmarket, Suffolk.
September 25.

Surgeons' standards

From Dr Alan B. Shrank

Sir, The President of the Royal College of Surgeons (letter, September 21) acclaims training of surgeons in this country as "second to none" and expects "open and fair competition" to ensure that adequately trained surgeons will be appointed to NHS consultant posts.

Sadly, there is now a serious shortage of well trained UK postgraduate doctors, not only in surgery but in many disciplines. The reasons are various, but the strict government control on medical manpower since the NHS was founded is, in my view, a major factor.

Consequently many advertisements for consultant posts attract either no applicants or inadequately trained foreign doctors. Pressure from lay and medical members on appointment committees for NHS consultants can result in unsatisfactory appointments, because the assessor from a Royal College has no power of veto.

The only way an assessor can stop such an appointment is to leave the appointment committee before any vote is taken, so rendering the committee *ultra vires*. Few doctors are that bold.

This emphasises a long-standing problem facing the public, the difficulty in discovering whether the hospital doctor caring for them is competent. Doctors' name badges, if worn, rarely declare the doctor's grade or the level of training, let alone where the training was received.

The public's lack of knowledge of the grades and quality of training makes it even more difficult for them to know whether they are receiving an appropriate quality of medical care.

Yours sincerely,
A. B. SHRANK
(Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association),
20 Crescent Place, Town Walls,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
September 21.

Realism and the IRA

From Mr Maritz Vandenberg

Sir, The IRA calls itself an army, kills like an army, and is careful to use military terminology when describing its murderous operations. Its members are soldiers who have chosen to exchange the rules of civil society for those of the battlefield.

Let this be remembered every time we hear criticism from civil libertarians and the media following incidents such as the shootings on Gibraltar, or this week in London (leading article, September 24).

Yours faithfully,
M. VANDENBERG,
21a Gwendolen Avenue,
Putney, SW15.
September 25.

Conscious machines

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Mr David Cathcart (letter, September 26) is surely wrong: the test of whether a machine is conscious is not whether we love it (I love my word processor — my wife calls it "the Other Woman"), but whether it loves us (I am not at all sure that it reciprocates).

I can't assume Lilo: "Love in, Love out".

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11.

As she is writ

From Miss M. H. J. Oliver

Sir, This week the Director of this college received two packages from the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority addressed to "The Principle". The information she received concerned "Standards for Assessing Spoken English".

Yours faithfully,
M. HERMIONE OLIVER,
Royal College of Music,
Prince Consort Road, SW7.
September 25.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Ever-open hand

From Professor D. G. Larman

Sir, The following story gives a further insight into that wonderful mathematician, Paul Erdös (Obituary, September 25).

In the early 1960s, when I was a student at UCL, Erdös came to visit us for a year. After collecting his first month's salary he was accosted by a beggar on Euston station, asking for the price of a cup of tea. Erdös removed a small amount from the pay packet to cover his own frugal needs and gave the remainder to the beggar.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. LARMAN,
University College London,
Department of Mathematics,
Gower Street, WC1.

This vale of tears

From Mr Peter J. Witchell

Sir, What with being unable to negotiate the streets of London for fear of tripping over rubbish (report, July 30), and now suffering from being called a "luvvie" (report, September 21), I reckon that the millionaire Trevor Nunn must be leading a pretty stressful life.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. WITCHELL,
The Old School House,
Owston Road, Knossington,
Oakham, Leicestershire.
September 22.

Incelibate Popes

From Professor Keith Kyle

Sir, Your report of September 21, listing incelibate Popes [see also letter, September 25] might with advantage have mentioned Felix V (1439-1449), regarded by some as an antipope, from whom the entire royal house of Italy was sprung.

Felix, who in secular life was the first Duke of Savoy, took the papacy (from what he recognised as the Conclave) as a retirement job when not himself in holy orders. He had been married with children, founding a line which supplied a unified Italy with her kings.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH KYLE,
25 Oppidans Road, NW3.
September 21.

Verse and Vivaldi enrich Radio 3

From Professor Denis Stevens

Sir, May I remind you that September 29 marks not the 50th anniversary of Radio 3, but the birth of the utterly unique Third Programme (letters, September 21, 25).

Those who were in any way connected with it will surely acknowledge the guiding role played by Sir William Haley, who after only a few years saw his ethereal creation imitated by many continental radio stations and even envied in America.

Supervising pre-classical music in those distant days, I am happy to have lived to see two composers (then little known) come into their own: Monteverdi and Vivaldi. Although my brief at that time stretched from Leonin in the 12th century to Reger in our own, I was basically an "early-music expert".

I also recall from 1952 the first-ever professional production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* anywhere in the world, given with the right metre, *tempi* and spirit, which influenced for the good all subsequent versions.

Similarly, in 1953, our broadcast of 12 Vivaldi concertos (*L'Estro Armonico* complete), with audible organ and harpsichord *continuo*, would undoubtedly have gained the composer's cordial approval.

The richness of Monteverdi's and Vivaldi's *continuo* sections may sometimes be heard in the concert hall, but never now on the air. Nevertheless something of the Third has stuck somewhere.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS STEVENS
(Producer, BBC Music Division, 1949-54),
The Quadrangle,
Morden College, SE3.
September 25.

From Mr Tim Dee

Sir, Far from "abandoning" poetry (Mr Patrick Howarth's letter, September 25), Radio 3 is as active as it ever has been in championing poetry in all areas: commissioning, broadcasting, discussing and reviewing.

As part of the forthcoming celebration of The Third at Fifty, five of the finest poets writing in English today have each been commissioned to write a 20-minute-long radio poem, *Five Poems for Fifty Years*; and the network's history of poetry commissioning will be profiled in a special documentary, *Third Words*.

As regards regular poetry programming on Radio 3 we broadcast the weekly *Best Words*, presenting the latest poetry arrivals and reviewing established poets. During the past year the network's occasional but regular poetry series has profiled poets and themes including Seamus Heaney on Ovid and Tony Harrison on the sonnet, and celebrated and reappraised classic work — for example the recent Juvenal satires newly translated by Ranjit Bolt and Richard Holmes's feature on the lesser-known Coleridge.

As it always has been, Radio 3 remains committed to poetry, a role endorsed by today's poets and respected and enjoyed by listeners.

Yours faithfully,
TIM DEE
(Senior Producer,
Literary Programmes),
BBC Radio 3,
Broadcasting House, W1.
September 26.

Making the news

From the Head of News Programmes, BBC

Sir, I read in *The Times* (The Listener, Media and Marketing, September 25) of "rumours" that the BBC's *Six O'Clock News* and *Nine O'Clock News* programmes are shortly to be "relaunched", that we are trying to "poach" Trevor McDonald from ITN, and that we are considering plans to "popularise" the news with "themed programmes, surveys and more personality newscasters".

It seems a pity to let the facts spoil a good story, but not one of these suggestions is true.

Yours etc,
PETER BELL,
Head of News Programmes,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12.
September 26.

Road to fame

From Mr David John Fuller

Sir, If Elaine Paige is *really* ambitious (letters, September 19, 25, 26) should she not consider the title role in *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JOHN FULLER,
Thornfield, 26 Shearbank Road,
Blackburn, Lancashire.

Putting off the style

From Professor Emeritus Leslie Collier

Sir, "Short of retreating to the Amish community for the past two years, it has been impossible to avoid the influence of Gucci" (Style, September 25).

I, and no doubt some others, have managed quite well without going to this extreme.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE COLLIER,
8 Peto Place, Regent's Park, NW1.
September 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 27: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Brooks upon assuming the appointment of Commanding Officer 1st Battalion.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, afterwards received Lieutenant-Colonel Keiran McCann upon assuming the appointment of Commanding Officer 4th Battalion.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 27: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this morning attended the Annual General Meeting at the University of York, Heslington, York, and was received by Mr Kenneth Dixon (Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended the Seminar "Food Agriculture and Agribusiness — Future Challenges and Opportunities" at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and was received by Colonel Richard Coxwell-Rogers (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 27: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon visited the Society's Killen Family Resource Centre, Avoch, Ross-shire.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty (Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairburn).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
September 27: Princess Alexandra this morning visited the families of Servicemen and Servicewomen presently serving in Bosnia with the A.C.E. Rapid Reaction Corps, in Rheindahlen, Germany.

The Lady Mary Mumford and Captain Neil Blair, R.N. were in attendance.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
Princess Alexandra will attend Ascot Races, Berkshire, and present The Queen's Trophy for The Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at 12.30.

TOMORROW:
The Princess Royal, Patron, BT Global Challenge, will start the race from the ferry *Duc de Normandie* off Gilkecker Point, Southampton Water, at 10.50.

The Linbury Trust

The Linbury Trust has appointed Dr Anthony Cleare as Senior Research Fellow in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Dr Cleare, who is currently a lecturer at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry and the Institute of Psychiatry, will begin his four year Fellowship on January 1, 1997.

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
Sir Paul Condon, accompanied by Lady Condon, was the principal guest at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the college.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers' Association
Brigadier J.H. Edwards presided at a dinner of the association held last night at the Staff College, Camberley, to mark the handover of the Colonel of the Regiment from Major-General R.L. Peck to Major-General A.D. Pigott.

Riddlesworth Hall School

Riddlesworth Hall School is holding a 50th anniversary reunion luncheon on Saturday, November 2, 1996, at 12.30pm. Tickets/details, contact Mrs Patricia Wood, Headmistress, tel: (01953) 681246.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY
Lord Abinger, 82; Sir Nigel Althaus, former Government Broker, 67; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 62; Mr Joe Benton, MP, 63; Professor Sir Colin Berry, morbid anatomist, 59; Lady Braye, 55; the Duke of Buccleuch, KT, 73; Sir Robin Buchanan, former chairman, NHS Supplies Authority Wessex Regional Health Authority, 66; Lord Cockfield, 80; Mr Erik Comas, racing driver, 33; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 50; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 74; Lieutenant-General S.C. Grant, 52; Mr Mika Hakkinen, racing driver, 28; Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 61; Mr Lyndon Harrison, MEP, 49; Dr R.B. Heywood, director, British Antarctic Survey, 59; Sir Trevor Hughes, water engineer, 71; Sir Jeremy Isaacs, general director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 64; the Earl of Listowel, 90; Mrs Alice Mahon, MP, 59; Miss Ellen Malcolm, painter, 73; Mr Marcello Mastroianni, actor, 72; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman, Lloyd's of London, 66; Miss Mary Moon, former Headmistress, Manchester High School for Girls, 64; Major E.S. Orr Ewing, Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtown, 65.

TOMORROW
Signor Michelangelo Antonioni, film director, 84; Air Marshal Sir David Atkinson, 72; Lord Avebury, 68; Sir John Balcombe, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Mr Richard Bonynge, conductor, 66; Mr Chris Broad, cricketer, 39; Mr Sebastian Coe, MP and former athlete, 40; Mr John Dawes, rugby coach, 56; Mr Colin Dexter, author, 66; Professor Dorothy Emmet, philosopher, 92; Professor R.J. Evans, historian, 49; Mr Alasdair Fraser, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, 50; the Very Rev Andrew Herron, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 87; Miss Patricia Hodge, actress, 50; Dr R.A. Hodges, archaeologist, 44; Professor R.V. Jones, CH, FRS, natural philosopher, 85; Mr H.N.L. Keswick, chairman, Matheson and Company, 58; Mr Jimmy Knapp, trade unionist, 56; Viscount Lambert, 84; Mr Murray McLaggan, Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, 67; Mr Rhodri Morgan, MP, 57; Dr Colin Niven, Headmaster, Alleyn's School, 55; Canon Paul Oestreicher, former chairman, British section, Amnesty International, 65; Sir Michael Partridge, civil servant, 61; Mr Stephen Platt, former Editor, *New Statesman and Society*, 42; Mr Peter Rigby, chairman and group managing director, Specialist Computer Holdings, 53; Mr David Steele, cricketer, 55; Mr Peter Stormonth Darling, director and formerly chairman, Mercury Asset Management Group, 64; Mrs Phyllis Taylor, educationist, 70; Dr Morag Timbury, former director, Central Public Health Laboratory, 66; Mrs Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, 51; Mr Lech Walesa, former President of Poland, 53.

Anniversaries are on the facing page

Tribute to victims of violence was dean's idea

The Queen to unveil Abbey memorial

By Audrey Magee
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of domestic violence, the Holocaust, Bosnia and Dunblane will be commemorated in Westminster Abbey next month when the Queen unveils a calligraphic work by an Irish sculptor.

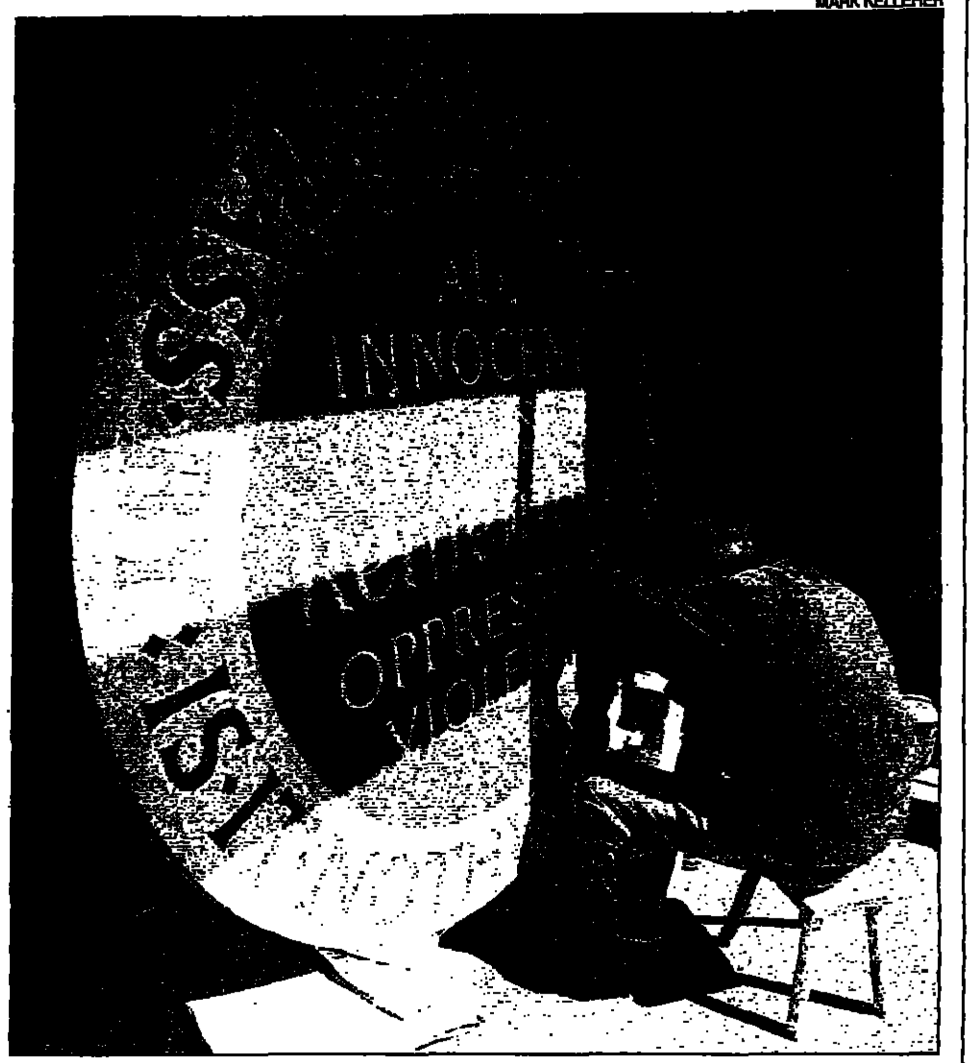
Kenneth Thompson, of Carrigtohill, Cork, is finishing the memorial which will be outside the abbey's west door, next to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, who has been working on the project for five years, said: "I believe this century has seen more victims of violence than any other. We have seen some dreadful wars, we have had appalling violence and refugees have been fleeing their homes all over the world. We need a way of remembering all of those people."

The dean said he had the idea for a memorial while holidaying in the Dolomite mountains in Italy. He contacted Mr Thompson and together they drew up plans for a larger-than-life statue of a woman and child fleeing to the Abbey for safety. This was rejected by Westminster Council. The two men have now agreed on a less flamboyant memorial which will be unveiled a few weeks before the dean retires.

The £20,000 memorial bears an inscription on a green slate flagstone. Set into the Abbey floor, the carving says: "Remember all innocent victims of oppression violence war" . An inscription from Lamentations from Jeremiah in the Old Testament will surround the main text. It reads: "Is it nothing to you all you who pass by".

MARK KELLEHER



Kenneth Thompson completing work on the memorial at his studio in Co. Cork

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.J.M. Bentley
and Miss A.N. Day
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Bentley, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and Angela, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Day, of Instow, North Devon.

Mr A.S. Borchardt
and Miss C.R. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Dr and Mrs Felix Borchardt, of Fladbury, Worcestershire, and Caren, only daughter of Mr Kenneth Johnson, of Lincoln, and Mrs Carol Dodds, of Louth, Lincolnshire.

Mr D.J. Crossley-Holland
and Miss S.A. Pearson
The engagement is announced between Dominic, younger son of Mr Kevin Crossley-Holland, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and Mrs C.F. Hickey, of Seaborough, Dorset, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Pearson, of Bath, Somerset.

Mr I. Edward
and Miss H.M. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Arnold Edward, of Cheam, Surrey, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Chapman, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr D.M. Osborne
and Miss L.E.E. Eckner
The engagement is announced between Dominic Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs David A. Osborne, of Ashington, West Sussex, and Linda Eva Elisabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Clas G. Eckner, of Skanör, Sweden.

Mr D. Hartley
and Miss U.S. Rodden
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr and Mrs Jack Hartley, of Burnley, Lancashire, and Ursula, daughter of Dr and Mrs Bob Rodden, of Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr A.E.W. Smith
and Miss L.M. Wardle
The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr Christopher Smith and the late Mrs Gillian Smith, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr Roger Wardle, of Cambridge, and Mrs Mary Toll, of Little Shelford, Cambridge.

Marriages

Mr G.F. Gilson
and Miss J.L. de Rohan
The marriage took place on September 21, 1996, in St Mark's Church, St John's Wood, of Mr Gabriel Frederick Gilson, youngest son of Mr Trevor Gilson, of Netley Abbey, Southampton, and Mrs Pamela Gilson, of Hythe, Southampton, to Miss Julie Louise de Rohan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice de Rohan, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr R. O'Hegarty
and Miss J. Wortley
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 21, at Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, of Mr Rory O'Hegarty to Miss Julia Wortley.

The bride was attended by Charlotte O'Hegarty, Isabella O'Hegarty, Georgia Blood and Claudia Strange. Mr Ross Gow was best man.

Mr William S. (Bill) Smith

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr William S. (Bill) Smith, CChem, FRSC, FCIWEM, Master of the Company of Water Conservators 1995-6, will be held on Thursday, October 24, at St Michael's, Cornhill, at 4.00pm. The Rev Adrian Hopwood, Honorary Chaplain of the Company, will officiate.

Church services tomorrow

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
(St Michael and All Angels)

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Have mercy upon me (Morley); 11 S Euch, Ave verum (Byrd), Jackson in G, O sweetest Jesu (Gregory); 3.30 Choral E, Brewer in D, Evening Hymn (Gardiner).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Stainer in A, Blessed art thou (Luff), Rev A Luff; 4 Choral E, Noble in A (No.1), War in Heaven (Cox).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Canon K Parfitt; 4 Choral E, There was war in heaven (Cox), Bishop R Milner.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 Holy Euch, Francis Jackson, The Dean; 3.30 E, Henry Purcell in B flat, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Blair in B minor, Factum est silentium (Dering), Canon J Simpson.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 8.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Choral Euch, Ireland in C, Ave verum (Elgar), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 3.15 Choral E, Sumsion in A, Faire is the heaven (Harris); 5 Gosber.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 10.30 Ordination of Deacons & Priests, Ridout in A, Litany (Piccolo), Rev C Reid; 3.15 E, Weelkes for five voices, Factum est silentium (Dering); 6.30 Compline, The Dean.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 Ordination, Collegium Regale (Howells), Bread of heaven (Wadely), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), Rt Rev F Sargeant; 3 E, Moeran in D, Factum est silentium (Dering).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Bishop D Bond; 11 Ordination of Deacons & Priests, Wood in the Phrygian mode, Litany (Tallis), Ave verum (Mozart), God be in my head (Rutter), The Archdeacon of Harlow; 6 Choral E, First Service (Weelkes), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev I Moody.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 Choral Euch, Schubert in G, Canon O Conway; 11.30 Choral M, Chester Festival Te Deum (Piccolo), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Christ the fair glory of the Holy Angels (Bullock); 6.30 Evening, The Dean.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in C, Exultate Justi (Viadana), Rev G Hall; 11 S Euch, Schubert in C, Jesu the very thought of thee (Bairstow), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Brewer in E flat, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Salve Regina (Langlais), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rt Rev S Barrington-Ward; 5.30 E & Procession, Wood in flat, Coventry Antiphon (Howells).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Schubert in G, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev S Barby; 6.30 E, Howells in G, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Redford), The Ven I Garford.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Perry; 9 MP; 10 Ordination, A New People's Mass (Murray), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Jesu the very thought of thee (Bairstow), Rev Fr J Ewer; 3.30 E, The Second Service (Byrd), Factum est silentium (Dering)

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, The Precentor; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Mozart), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev J Inge, The Dean; 3.45 E & Installation, Stanford in A, Angels (Tavener); 6.30 Taize-style worship, Rev J Inge.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in C & F, Draw nigh (Ferguson), The Dean; 11.15 M, Statham in F, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), The Priest Vicar; 3 E, Stanford in C, Ley Lo round the throne; 6.30 Evening, Preb N Jackson-Stevens.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Ordination, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart), Rev M Tavinor; 3 E, Stanford in B flat, How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev J Clark; 10.30 Ordination & S Euch, Rite A setting (Moore), Factum est silentium (Dering), O quam gloriosum (Vittoria); 6.30 E, Stanford in G, Christ the fair glory (Millington), Rev Fr R Frost.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Factum est silentium (Dering), O Lorde give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Preb R Bould; 3.30 E, Stanford in A, For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Choral E, The Dean; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8,12.15 Holy Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mathias), And there was war in heaven (Campbell), Rev M Tomlinson; 3.30 Choral E, Third Service (Knott, A Sequence for St Michael (Howells); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev N Court.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, Factum est silentium (Dering), Canon P Denby; 6.30 EP.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon B Langley; 9.30 Ordination of Deacons, Rev Dr C Knights; 6 Choral E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Gray in A, Worthy is the Lamb (Handel); 6.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ego sum panis vivus (Palestrina).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8,9.15 HC; 10.30 Ordination of Deacons, Darke in E, God keep you (Dugdale), Litany (Nicholas), Of Angel's song (Wilby), Canon J Tetley; 3.30 Festal E, Magdalen Service (Leighton), Christ the fair glory (Bullock), Canon M Perham; 6.30 Young People's Euch.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Kelly), Faire is the heaven (Harris), The Dean; 3.30 E, The Dorian Service (Stewart), Factum est silentium (Dering).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Parish Euch sung to Darke in F, Tantum ergo (de Severac), Rev D Murfet; 11.30 M, Darke in F, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton); 12.30 Euch, Rev J Thom; 5.30 E Purcell in B flat, Angels (Tavener), Canon M Glanville-Smith.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Michaelmas Ordination of Priests & Deacons, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev D Williams; 3.15 E, Jesu grant me this I pray (Whitlock), Blair in B minor, Factum est silentium (Dering); 7 Girl Choristers Sponsored Concert.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon P Roberts; 10 Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Fr C Walsh; 11.30 M, Canon D Durston; 3 E, Murrill in E, Jesu dulcis memoria (Drayton).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Missa O Quam Gloriosum (Vittoria), O Quam Gloriosum (Vittoria), Rev R D Jenkins; 11.45 Text for the Day; 6.30 Festal E & Sermon, Sumsion in A, Angels (Lole), The Ven M Paton.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev H Cunliffe; 11 Choral Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Justorum animae (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), The Bishop; 3 Choral E, Stanford in G, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Rev H Cunliffe.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Truro Eucharist (Briggs), Ave verum corpus (Eglar), The Treasurer; 6 E, Fauxbourdons (Whitlock), Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Canon M Geach.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Provost; 9.15 Parish Communion, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 11 Solemn Euch, Darke in F, Tantum ergo (Duruflé), The Provost; 6.30 Solemn E, Jackson in G, O Lord, our Governor (Bielby), Rev A Jennings.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), For he shall give his angels (Thomas), The Very Rev R Lewis; 11.30 M, Britten in C, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock); 3 E & Thanksgiving, St Paul's Service (Howells), Factum est silentium (Dering), The Rt Rev J Thompson; 6 75th Anniversary for Royal British Legion & Dedication of Standard.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in B flat (Purcell), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev Prof J Riches; 11.15 Euch, Darke in F, Let my prayer (Harris), For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn), Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Stanford in A, Faire is the heaven (Harris), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 Evening, "Visions of Hildegard".

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa festiva (Peeters), Plebs angelica (Tippett), Allegro (Mendelssohn, Sonata 1); 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Tallis), Factus est silentium (Dering), Carillon de Longpont (Vierne); 4.30 Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC;10.30 M, Benedictus (Fauxbourdons) (Moore), Factum est silentium (Dering), The Bishop of Basingstoke; 11.30 Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Wir glauben all (Bach); 3.30 E, Stanford in C, How lovely are thy dwellings fair (Brahms), Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Rev P Hamilton; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holst), Jubilate in G (Jackson); 4 E, Ireland in F, Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev L Stanbridge.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Yr Is-Ganon; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Stanford in B flat, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), The Dean; 6 Choral E, Harwood in A flat, The heavens are telling (Haydn), The Canon.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, L'Hora Passa (Viadana), O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Rev G Bradley; 2 Ghanaian Mass, Fr J Enin.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL: 11 Morning, Dedication & HC, Factum est silentium (Dering), Jubilate Deo (Howells), Agnus Dei (Howells), Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening, Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, For he shall give his angels charge over thee (Mendelssohn), Rev J Halliburton; 3.15 E, Wesley in E, Plebs angelica (Tippett), Rev J Lees; 5.15 Recital.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Solemnis in B flat (Bruckner), The Vicar; 6 E&B, The Fourth Service (Batten), Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Guest Service, Mr V Menon; 6.30 Rev Preb R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa exultate Deo (Cosset), Psalm 63 (Goudimel), Tantum ergo in A flat (Bruckner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy, Behold the Tabernacle of God (Harris); 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev S Hood.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa brevis in F (Mozart), Ave verum (Elgar) 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Pange lingue (Bruckner).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Harvest Festival, Rev F Crewes.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev E Fletcher; 6.30 Rev B Lucas.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, South Kensington: Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen).

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 A Celebration of Michaelmas, Packe dich, gelahmter Drache (Telemann).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for Five Voices ((Berkeley), Ave verum (Mawby), The Rector; 6.30 E, Short Service (Byrd), Dum medium silentium (Dering), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Missa Brevis (Walton), For he shall give his angels charge over thee (Mendelsohn), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Factum est silentium (Dering), A sequence for St Michael (Howells), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev S Richards.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Calms; 6.30 Songs of Spirit II.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Mass of St John the Baptist (Turner), Super Flumina Babylonis (Palestrina), O Domine Jesu Christe (Guerrero).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Bell' Amfitrit Altera (Lasso), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Ascendo ad Patrem (Palestrina), Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, 3rd Service (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Croce).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Harvest Festival Communion, Carillon-Sortie (Mulet), Rev D Richards; 6.30 Songs of Praise, Rev M Okello.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion; 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Jubilate Deo (Britten), Rev T Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozart), How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms), Rev P Cowell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 Commissioning Service of the Bishop of Kensington by The Bishop of London.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozart), Fr G Oliver; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Factum est silentium, Rev D Jones; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch for St Michael & All Angels, Congregational Mass (How), Michael and All Angels (Gorb), Rev P Wells.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 9 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Greater love (Ireland), Justorum animae (Byrd), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Messe (Martin), For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn), Moto Ostinato (Petr Eben), Fr D Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 11 MP; Te Deum (Britten in C), Sing the Lord, ye voices all (Haydn), Rev R Ballard; 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Harwood in Ab, Sing Joyfully (Mundy), Rev P Abram.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Factum est silentium (Dering), Fugue in D minor (Walond), Rev D Dewey.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Lead me Lord (Wesley), Sicut servus (Palestrina), Band of the Irish Guards, Rev L Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 M, O quam gloriosum (Vittoria), Bishop of Brentwood.

PERSONAL

A sensible person puts his trust in the Law, finding it reliable like the oracle of God. Ecclesiasticus 33 : 3

BIRTHS

ALLHUSEN - On 8th September, to Panda (née Rae) and Christian, a daughter, Sabrina, a sister for Benjamin, Matthew and Natasha.

ALSTER - On April 1st, at The Portland Hospital, to Sally (née Nicholson) and Henri, a wonderful son, George Sebastian, brother for Adam and Francesca.

AMES - On September 7th 1996, to Elizabeth (née Renshaw) and Christopher, a son, Thomas, a brother for Caroline and Alexandra.

BRANDON-CROSS - On September 23rd, to Karen Juster and Bradley Brandon-Cross, a son, Frederick Charles.

CALDERBANK - On September 23rd, to Louise (née Stamper) and Martin, a daughter, Anne Mary Emily.

COATES - On 25th September, to Madeleine and John, a son, James Edward.

de VERE HUNT - On September 23rd, to Julie and Peter, a son, Felix Harry Peter, a brother for Daisy and Isabella.

EVANS - On September 13th 1996 to Emma (née Gumm) and Sam, a son, Alexander Thomas Colin, a brother for Bertie and Rory.

EVANS-THOMAS - On 25th September 1996, to Sarah (née Hopwood) and Richard, a son, George Alexander.

HILL - On 25th September, to Charlotte and Chris, a son, Samuel Miles Colingwood, a brother for Alexandra.

KAEDA - On 22nd September 1996, to Karen (née Desbank) and Jaspal, a beautiful daughter, India Elizabeth Grace, a sister for Natasha.

MYERSON - On September 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Ingrid (née Lawrie) and Brian, a beautiful daughter, Georgia Alexa, a sister to Nicholas and Robert.

POUGET - On September 18th, to Louise (née Price) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Sophia Alexandra, a sister for Jessica and Georgia.

THOMAS - On September 25th, to Vivien (née Robertson) and Angus, a son, Piers Florian Leslie, a brother for Georgina and Rosie.

WHISTON - On Tuesday September 17th 1996 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Jane-Marie (née Carver) and Neill, a daughter, Nancy Alice.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

HARWOOD:KENNELL - David and Ann, at Christ Church, Sidcup, on 29th September 1956. Now at Billericay.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ADDISCOTT:TURNBULL - At Holy Trinity Bengeo, by Rev. Philip Turnbull, cousin of the bride, William Stuart to Jean Mary. With love and Congratulations from all the family - still faithfull to St. Mary's Platt.

MATANLE:MASTERMAN - On 28th September 1946 in London, Arthur to Anne, now at Pulborough West Sussex.

DEATHS

ERIKA TANCZOS
Peacefully at home on September 25th 1996.
Beloved wife of Steve and mother to Stephan.
Cremation at Medway Crematorium on Thursday 3rd october at 2.40 pm.
Family flowers or donations to the Heart of Kent Hospice.
c/o Viner and Sons Ltd.,
54 High Street,
West Malling,
Kent. ME19 6LU

DEATHS

BETT - Sheilagh Leslie, mother of Simon, Rosellen and grandmother of Arabella, at home on Tuesday 24th September. She was as serene at death as she was in life, having for several years tossed off physical frailty with stoic humour. Private Cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving and Internment of Ashes at Rogate Parish Church, 3pm, Friday 4th October. No flowers. Donations if desired c/o Petersfield Funeral Services (01730) 262711

CARTER - Nicholas Stanley James Sqd. Ldr. RAF, on September 25th, peacefully at home in Cornwall, aged 43. Beloved son of Barbara Carter (née Reddish) " The last of the Warriors".

CRAIG - On September 26th peacefully at the Old House Rest Home, Wormelow, Hereford, Peggy, formerly Boyle (née Beattie). Dearly loved mother of Maureen, Richard, Sheena and Elaine and grandmother and great-grandmother. Lady Mayoress of Hereford 1955-1956. Enquiries (01432) 356445.

de FEREMBRE - Irene Loftin, peacefully at St. George's Square on 24th September aged 98 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Rupert de Ferembre. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 8th October at 1.45pm. No flowers by request. Donations if desired for Cats Protection League or Talking Books for the Blind, c/o J. H. Kenyon Funeral Directors, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JU

DRAKE - Abigail Mary BSc Hons, on Tuesday September 24th, aged 37, at Coleman Hospital, Norwich, after a long illness. Loving daughter of Syd and Jean (deceased) and special sister to Gina. She will be sadly missed by her family and many friends. Cremation at Oxford, Wednesday October 2nd at 11.30am. No flowers by request. Donations to Fox's Funeral, 10 Canada Road, Cromer, in aid of British Trust Conservation Volunteers.

GILLESPIE - John (Iain) died peacefully at Michael Sobell House, Headington, Oxford, on Thursday 26th September 1996. Darling husband and best friend of Angela, only son of the late William Millar-Gillespie OBE. Loving stepbrother of Jennifer, caring uncle of William, Phoebe, Geoffrey, Anthony, and the late Trevor. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Michael Sobell House - Macmillan Nurses.

GREGORY - Paul Clement Commander, Royal Navy. Aged 52 years. On 23rd September, tragically by motor cycle accident. Much loved husband of Tricia. Will be lovingly remembered always by all his family. All enquiries Earl of Plymouth Funeral Service, (01752) 605550

GUYVER - Brian, on Tuesday September 24th in Wisdom Hospice, Rochester.

HALLUM - Jean Lilian, MD, FRCOG, of Birmingham and formerly of Sorrento Maternity, on 24th September. Service at St. Columba, Chantry Road, Moseley, on Friday 4th October at 11.30 am, followed by private cremation. No flowers please.

HARBINSON - At Dr. Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on Thursday September 26th, 1996, George Chamberlain, aged 87 years. Dearly beloved husband of the late Muriel Rhoda, dearly loved father of Roderick, Heather and Petronella. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Elgin, on Tuesday October 1st, at 1.30pm, thereafter to Elgin Cemetery. All friends welcome, parking available at William Watson, Funeral Directors, Blackfriars Road, Elgin.

KERMAN - Blanche Theresa on Thursday 26th September 1996, peacefully at home after a long illness. Beloved wife of Isidore and mother of Nicky and Andy. Private funeral. No flowers or letter please.

LEACH - John Michael, Councillor of Deal, Kent, suddenly and peacefully in California on September 22nd, aged 66. Much loved husband, father, stepfather and brother. Memorial Service at the Town Hall, Deal, at 2 pm on Monday, October 14th.

MASON - Margaret, formerly of High Wycombe, Bucks, died peacefully in the Accord Hospice, September 25th. Funeral at 2pm October 4th, Woodside Crematorium, 46 Broomlands Street, Paisley. Enquiries (0141) 889 2260. Donations to Accord Hospice, Hospital Grounds, Hawkhead Road, Paisley, PA2 7BL.

MORRISON - Peacefully in hospital on September 26th 1996, George, very dear husband of Margaret and father of Neil. The funeral will be private.

MOUKARZEL - Kamal, suddenly at home on Tuesday 24th September 1996. Beloved husband of Daizin (née Leigh-Bell) and much loved father of Naim, Bashir and Natalie. Funeral service Wednesday 2nd October 1996 at 11 am. at Our Most Holy Redeemer and St. Thomas Moor - Cheyne Row - Chelsea SW3 followed by burial service at Gunnersbury Cemetery - Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing. Donations if desired to:- Preventative Cardiology Research Fund - Harefield Hospital, Middlesex UB9 6JH. Enquiries: J.H.Kenyon (0171) 834 4624.

OWEN - Peacefully in London on 27th September 1996, Majorie (Mickie), aged 88 years, formerly of Chelsea. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium Wednesday 2nd October at 12 noon. Enquries to Chelsea F/D, 260B Fulham Road, SW10. (0171) 352 0008.

SEWELL - H.T.C. (Harry). Peacefully in Ipswich Hospital on Thursday September 26th aged 72 years. Dearly loved husband of Muriel. Funeral Service at St. Margaret's Church, Reydon, on Friday October 4th at 2pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for Cancer Research, c/o Fishers (Southwold) Ltd., Field Stile Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6LD.

SHAW - Major David James Sawyer, TD, on Thursday 26th September 1996, peacefully at home, aged 78. Dearly loved husband of Audrey and a special stepfather to Marcus. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at St. Giles Church, Goodrich on Friday 18th October at 12 noon. No flowers please, but donations, if wished, to St. Michael's Hospice, c/o Abbotsfield Funeral Directors, Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7AN

TARBAT - Olga Viscountess Tarbat, peacefully on 26th September at Ludshott Court, Hampshire. Much loved and missed by her sons Michael and John, sister Sonya, her stepdaughters Gillean and Julia and all her grandchildren. Cremation at Guildford Crematorium at 3pm on 1st October. Flowers to Gould & Chapman (01428) 604436.

THOMAS - On September 24th 1996, at Stracathro Hospital, Angus, David Henry, aged 70 years, formerly of Bramshaw, Hampshire, and latterly of Kirriemuir, Scotland. Loved and missed by his only daughter Nicola and James Helyer. Grandfather of Louise and Thomas.

THOMSON - Colin aged 51, died peacefully in hospital on September 25th. He will be greatly missed by Jenny and all his friends and relations. Funeral service at All Saints, Putney Bridge, Fulham at 9.30 am on Thursday, October 3rd. Flowers or if preferred donations to The Multiple Sclerosis Society.

WHITE-SMITH - On September 27th, Millicent, of London SW1, widow of Sir Henry White-Smith CBE, (First Chairman of the S.B.A.C.), in her 102nd year. "Rien ne va plus".

WHITMARSH - George Thomas Flower died peacefully on 25th September at East Surrey Hospital, Redhill, after a long illness. He will be sadly missed by many. Cremation at Croydon Crematorium on Thursday 3rd October at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Banstead Blind Handicraft Class, c/o Truelove, 121 High Street, Banstead, Surrey. Tel:(01737) 212160

WILLIAMS - D.J. Command Royal Canadian Navy (ret'd), died Sunday 22nd September 1996 after a short stay in hospital in Victoria B.C., aged 75 years. He was much loved by all his family and his many friends. His life was spent in service for others. He was in the fleet Air Arm, flying in many War Zones, after which he married Helen and studied at Oxford University where he obtained his MA, (French), then moved to Canada, where he joined the R.C.N. serving with them until he retired. He taught French at many different schools including St. Michael University School Victoria B.C. Douglas was a man of great Christian Faith, he saw in Jesus the true example of how to live and serve. He will be sadly missed by all. Rest in peace dearest D.J.

WILSON - Dorothy Catherine (Widow of David Butler Wilson), peacefully, 19th September, aged 98. Much loved mother of Catherine Robinson, Jean Macpherson, Anne Mallinson. Service of Thanksgiving: Saturday, 19th October, 4:00 p.m. St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley, Cheshire. No flowers. Donations in memory to Smallcombe House (Salvation Army) Bath BA2 6EJ.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

KENNEDY - Grace. September 28th, 1994. Most beloved mother and dearest companion. Missed beyond words. Carol.

LOWDELL - D'Arcy, Kathmandu. We think of you everyday. Neen, George, Alex and Olivia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CROCKER James William Tulley late of 15 Graham Terrace, London SW1 8JE. Solicitor died 24th June 1996. Particulars to Crockers, 10 Gough Square, London EC4A 3NJ before 5th December 1996.

KING NITA of 99 Eyre Court Finchley Road St. John's Wood London NW8, Widow, died on 26TH May 1996; particulars to BLACK GRAF & CO. 14/15 COLLEGE CRESCENT LONDON NW3 5LL before 30th November 1996

SANDERSLEY MARY ELIZA of 1 Nutley Terrace London NW3. Widow died 16TH November 1995; particulars to BLACK GRAF & CO. 14/15 COLLEGE CRESCENT LONDON NW3 5LL before 30th November 1996

STAGG, MARY LOUISE of 7 Mill Court, 44/46 Brighton Road, South Croydon, Surrey died on 14 May 1996 particulars to BRADLEY & CUTHBERTSON Solicitors of 47 NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM B3 3QU before 29 November 1996

STIEBEL MARTHA of 16 Ellis Franklin Court, 35 Abbey Road London NW8, Spinster died on 17th May 1996; particulars to BLACK GRAF & CO. 14/15 COLLEGE CRESCENT LONDON NW3 5LL before 30th November 1996

هكذا من الأصل

مكتب الاهرام

OBITUARIES

MUHAMMAD NAJIBULLAH

Muhammad Najibullah, former president of Afghanistan, was executed in Kabul yesterday at the age of 49. He was born in the eastern province of Paktia in 1947.

Najibullah holding up a copy of the Koran with a bullet hole in it at a Kabul press conference in 1987

Against the tide of Islamic sentiment to which he has now fallen victim, Muhammad Najibullah led the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan for six years from 1986. For this period he appeared almost to have succeeded in establishing a Commun[illegible] Government — albeit a repressive one based on Soviet military might and economic support. Yet surprisingly, although once reviled as the "Butcher of Kabul" he had survived long enough after the overthrow of his regime by Muslim Mujahidin guerrillas to perceive that some of his former subjects actually looked upon his time with nostalgia.

This was particularly so of women, who had enjoyed unprecedented freedom under his regime. With all its faults, communism granted them an equal place with men in the nation's affairs and Najibullah had women in his Cabinet. His final defeat came as a result of the intrigues of Muslim neighbours and the ending of all Russian material support in 1992.

Muhammad Najibullah is the son of a chief of the Ahmadzai Ghilzai tribe, a middle-ranking governor in Paktia province. Much of his youth was spent there in the town of Gardez and in the Pakistani city of Peshawar in the North-West Frontier Province where he made long-lasting friendships with Pathan tribal chiefs living on the Pakistani side of the border.

After graduating from the Habibia High School, in Kabul, in 1964, he entered university to study medicine. By then he was firmly under the influence of a Marxist intellectual, Babrak Karmal, whom he would later dislodge as President.

Najibullah took ten years to obtain his medical degree in 975. His studies were interrupted by periods of imprisonment for agitation, including one for throwing missiles at the motorcade of Spiro Agnew, then Vice-President of the United States. He never practised medicine. After joining the army for a short spell, he threw himself into full-time underground activity on the side of Karmal's Parcham (flag) faction of the Communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The agitation was at first aimed against the paternalistic, authoritarian rule of President Sardar Daoud Khan, who had overthrown the monarchy of his cousin Shah Muhammad Zahir with the support of Parchamite military officers. But it was also in competition with Muslim fundamentalists and Greater Pashtunistan nationalists on the extreme right. Many of the leaders of the Islamic guerrilla movement which later battled with Najibullah's Government were his contemporaries in university and in prison.

The Afghan capital was at that time a place of high passions. Muslim activists, who apparently received some support from Western embassies anxious to stem the growing influence of Marxism among the educated young, threw acid onto unveiled women, while Marxists affronted Muslim sentiments by referring to Lenin in quasi-religious terms. The government seemed ineffective or uncaring in the face of growing poverty.

Though both the Parcham and the Khalq (masses) factions of the PDPA were eventually agreed on the strategy of seizing power through a military coup, they suffered from ideological differences and ethnic rivalries. The Khalqis combined revolutionary Marxism with Pashtun chauvinism while the Parchamites were largely Persian-speaking gradualists. These differences later proved almost as debilitating as the inflexibility of the Muslim guerrillas in the hills.

In April 1978 the two Communist factions surprised themselves when they managed with relative ease to overthrow President Daoud, displaying much unnecessary cruelty in the process by murdering many members of the ruling family. But their unity did not last. The new President, Nur-Muhammad Taraki, whose radical policies alienated much of the country, soon ousted Parcham leaders from positions of power and sent Karmal and Najibullah, both members of the Revolutionary Council, to Prague and Tehran respectively as ambassadors.

Less than three months later — and a year before Taraki was murdered by his Khalqi deputy, Hafizullah Amin — Karmal and Najibullah raided the safe boxes of their embassies and went to Moscow to lobby support for another violent seizure of power in Kabul. But this time it was carried out with the aid of an invading Soviet Army. Najibullah returned to Afghanistan in secret to organise military support for the invasion of Christmas 1979 and the "liquidation" of Amin, after which Karmal was installed as the new President and Najibullah became the new chief of the political police.

Here his brutal methods proved invaluable to the new regime. In imitation of the grisly practices of East German intelligence services, and by recruiting Iranian and Pakistani Marxists seeking refuge in Kabul, he turned the capital's prisons into places that inspired dread in the hearts of citizens harbouring sympathy for the Muslim guerrillas or a preference for the Khalqis. Hundreds of prisoners were thought to have been executed in the Poli Charkhi prison on the outskirts of Kabul.

But President Karmal, whose charisma and lenient policies had at first attracted new recruits to the regime and given it unexpected stability, eventually became a liability to the regime. He became an alcoholic who failed to inspire the army to improve its fighting record. Only the presence of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in the land preserved the Government. In May 1986, when Karmal's alcoholism had made him an embarrassment, Moscow agreed to a change of leadership for the PDPA and Najibullah became the regime's new leader. Karmal was sent to a dacha on the Black Sea a few months later and became the first President of Afghanistan not to die on his overthrow.

President Najibullah now embarked on a two-pronged policy: to strengthen the morale of the army with improved pay, food and training, and to distance himself from Communist practices. He declared the country a multi-party state, gave positions of power to non-party personalities, invited the former King Zahir to return from his Italian exile, and invited Mujahidin leaders to join him in a Government of National Reconciliation.

The former king and the guerrillas did not reciprocate, but Najibullah gradually conveyed the impression to his people that he was an Afghan nationalist before being a Communist. People began to listen to Kabul radio again, and independent spirits found it easier to join the Government. Severe criticism of the Government was allowed on the state-controlled media.

A military and political landmark for the new leader was the Pakistani-assisted siege of the border town of Khost by the Mujahidin in December 1987, when the Afghan army was able to survive the assault and Najibullah's reputation was strengthened. He was now able to persuade the Soviet Union to plan a less hasty withdrawal, and he projected the image of a statesman at the Geneva talks with Pakistan in 1988.

A near-fatal setback came in the spring of 1990 in the form of an attempted coup by General Shahnawaz Tanai, the Defence Minister, who had been instrumental in the Government's military revival. A bomb narrowly missed Najibullah and many buildings in the capital were destroyed in air attacks. But Tanai, who subsequently joined the most fundamentalist of the guerrillas in Pakistan, did not succeed in taking many officers and men over to the opposing side and the Government appeared to recover.

Najibullah now distanced his state even further from communism and gave the majority of seats in his Cabinet to non-party personalities. In the last months of the Soviet state at the end of 1991, Najibullah appeared so secure that Pakistan and Iran urged their guerrilla clients to make peace with him in order to initiate international trade across Afghanistan with the newly autonomous states of the former Soviet central Asia. The end of his regime came only when the collapse of the Soviet Union ended all economic aid to it, while the guerrillas still received support from their sponsors, particularly Saudi Arabia.

At the very end, he attempted to flee to India to join his wife and daughter there, but some of the tribal militias who had served his Government turned against him and blocked his aircraft. During the rule of the Hezbi Islami he lived in the sanctuary of the offices of the United Nations in Kabul, where he suffered from diabetes. He was executed with his brother Shahpur, who had been his security chief, a few hours after the takeover of the city by Taleban theological students.

LUDMILLA CHIRIAEFF

Ludmilla Chiriaeff, founder and director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, died in Montreal on September 22 aged 72. She was born in Riga in 1924.

TWO OF Canada's three leading ballet companies were founded in the country's English-speaking provinces by British immigrants. Ludmilla Chiriaeff started the third, in francophone Quebec.

Her own background was decidedly mixed. When she arrived in Montreal from Europe in 1952, Winnipeg already had its own company, which was shortly to receive a royal charter, and Toronto had just set up in opposition, with the National Ballet.

Chiriaeff started out with ballet productions for television, which were then even more rare than they are today. A small company was formed to dance these works, and after two or three years it [illegible] touring in theatres under the name of Les Ballets Chiriaeff. In 1956 it appeared with success at the Montreal Festival.

With publicly funded companies in Ontario and Winnipeg, Quebecois pride could not afford to be left behind, and in 1957 Chiriaeff's company was relaunched as Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, with her as director. She was also in charge of the company's affiliated training academy.

Eric Hyrst, a former member of Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, had meanwhile joined as principal dancer and as choreographer. In the early days most of the company's repertoire was by Chiriaeff and Hyrst, although some of the standard classics were added as soon as possible.

Chiriaeff had some experience of running a company before she left Europe. From a Russian family (her father was a writer), she was born in Riga in 1924, but the family subsequently took up residence in Berlin. There she studied ballet with Alexandra Nicolaieva, formerly of the Moscow Imperial Ballet. As a child, Chiriaeff danced with de Basil's Ballets Russes in 1936-37, and had further teaching from Fokine and Massine.

In 1939 Chiriaeff joined the Berlin Opera Ballet, soon becoming a soloist and dancing also in operettas and films. The final month of the war interrupted her career, and when fighting ended she moved to Switzerland, becoming principal dancer and ballet mistress in Lausanne. In 1948 she started her own school in Geneva and formed a small company, Les Ballets des Arts.

Ludmilla Chiriaeff with dancers from the school of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens

This experience served her well on moving to Canada, and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens soon started touring, including the United States from 1959. She strengthened her hand in 1964 by inviting Anton Dolin as artistic adviser: he mounted *Giselle* and his *Pas de Quatre* and *Swan of Tuonela* for them. A greater step forward, however, came with the acclaim for Fernand Nault's production of *Carmina Burana*, premiered for Expo 67 in Montreal.

A Canadian dancer, Nault had joined Les Grands Ballets as co-director. Chiriaeff followed up this success by adding *Catulli Carmina* and *Trionfo di Afrodite*, in choreography respectively by John Butler and Norman Walker, to make a complete evening of Carl Orff's music. This was one of the programmes given at Sadler's Wells in 1969 during the company's first European tour.

Even more enthusiasm greeted the rock ballet *Tommy*, Nault's staging in 1971 of music by The Who, long before it became a straight stage show. So the company was in strong health when Chiriaeff in 1974 stood down as director, being replaced by another Canadian choreographer, Brian Macdonald. Chiriaeff remained responsible for the school, however, for some years.

Ludmilla Chiriaeff's contribution to ballet in Canada was recognised by her appointment to the Order of Canada in 1969 and promotion to Companion in 1984. In 1993 she was one of six Canadians given the Governor-General's Performing Arts Award for a lifetime's achievement. She arrived in a wheelchair for the Ottawa presentation, but stood to acknowledge the applause.

EIDDON EDWARDS

Eiddon Edwards, CMG, CBE, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum, 1955-1974, died in London on September 24 aged 87. He was born on July 21, 1909.

EIDDON EDWARDS will be remembered beyond the narrow circle of scholars devoted to the study of the ancient world, as the author of an outstandingly successful book, *The Pyramids of Egypt*, and, above all, as the motive force behind the Tutankhamun Exhibition of 1972, sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in conjunction with the British Museum.

Tutankhamun brought Edwards out of the academic shadows, in which he worked with ease and confidence, and exposed him to the glare of publicity, for which his training and experience had scarcely prepared him. In the year of Tutankhamun he demonstrated how successfully the retiring academic can, if circumstances require, meet the demands of a public curious to an unprecedented degree about a great discovery, and voracious for sensation.

Iorwerth Eiddon Stephen Edwards enjoyed a career which led almost inevitably to the Keepership of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum. Born in London, he was the only son of Edward Edwards, a noted Persian scholar, and Ellen Jane Edwards (née Higgs), a singer in oratorio and opera. Familiarity with the British Museum came early, for his father worked in the Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts.

But as a schoolboy at Merchant Taylors' Edwards's first interest in antiquity lay in the physical remains of the past, rather than in the ancient languages of the East. This early passion was stimulated by the remarkable archaeological discoveries of the 1920s, of Sir Leonard Woolley at Ur as much as of Howard Carter in Tutankhamun's tomb.

The schoolboy archaeologist, however, seemed to change direction as he grew older. At Merchant Taylors' he began the study of Hebrew, and, subsequently, of Arabic. When he went up to Cambridge in 1928 with a scholarship at Gonville and Caius, it was to read for the Oriental Languages Tripos. Postgraduate work in Arabic seemed to clinch the field in which Edwards's future work would lie.

But the old devotion to the antiquities of the Near East was not extinguished, and in 1934 he entered the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum. Henceforth he was to devote himself to the study of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

But he retained a lively interest in Semitic languages, which greatly enhanced his understanding of ancient Egyptian. It also determined the nature of his work during the war, when he was seconded to the Foreign Office. During the war he served for two years in the Cairo Embassy, moving later to the Baghdad Embassy, and finally to the Secretariat at Jerusalem.

The time spent in Egypt during the war extended Edwards's knowledge of its antiquities. He began the study of the pyramids which was to lead in 1947 to the publication of *The Pyramids of Egypt*. Repeatedly revised and updated, uncompromisingly scholarly and wholly free of the madness that afflicts most writing on the subject, this book remains, in spite of its modest length, the most comprehensive treatment of these fascinating monuments.

Returning to the British Museum after the war, Edwards found himself for a number of years its sole Egyptologist. Yet in the post-war period the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities became a focus for Egyptologists visiting this country, and it was fitting that in 1955, when the department was divided into its two natural constituents, Edwards should become the first Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities. Between 1955 and 1974, when he retired, the reputation of his department was steadily built up.

Administrative demands on his time restricted his scholarly output, but he was able in 1960 to publish an exceptionally interesting study of a group of papyri written in difficult late hieratic hands (*Oracular Amuletic Decrees of the Late New Kingdom*). Outside the Museum he was for many years the honorary treasurer of the Egypt Exploration Society, later a vice-president (1962-88). For many years he was a valued adviser in the affairs of that organisation. In 1962 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

The culmination of his keepership at the British Museum was the Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibition. Although it is not possible to give him the whole credit for bringing the 50 pieces from the fabulous tomb to London, there can be no doubt that his personal friendships with senior Egyptian officials, diplomats and statesmen secured the initial promise of the exhibition and, at all stages of the negotiations, made co-operation easy and progress steady.

During the year of the exhibition he worked tirelessly for the success of the venture, never allowing anyone to overlook the two principal aims of the exhibition, first to raise funds for the Unesco appeal to save the Temples of Philae, and secondly, to ensure that as many people of this country as possible should see the treasures. Both these aims were amply achieved, and the exhibition remains in the memories of vast numbers of people as perhaps the most successful show of its kind to have been held in this country this century.

Above and beyond the visible achievements of the exhibition was a marked improvement in relations between the United Kingdom and Egypt. For his notable contribution to this *entente* Edwards was appointed CMG in 1973. He had been appointed CBE for his services to the British Museum in 1968.

In retirement, many of the activities which had occupied the last years of his keepership continued to absorb Edwards's time and energies. After London, the Tutankhamun exhibition went to America, and Edwards was the obvious choice to provide Egyptological experience in the preparation of the various publications which supported the showing of the treasures throughout the United States. In Egypt, he continued to act on behalf both of Unesco and of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation.

The regard in which he was held throughout the Egyptological community was demonstrated by the multiplicity and range of contributions to *Pyramid Studies and other Essays*, the volume presented in his honour in 1988.

His wife Elizabeth (née Lisle), survives him, with one daughter.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS:
Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, painter, Caravaggio, Italy, 1573; Henry Fox, 1st Baron Holland, statesman, Chiswick, 1705; Sir William Jones, orientalist, London, 1746; Richard Bright, physician, Bristol, 1789; Prosper Mérimée, writer, Paris, 1803; Francis Turner Palgrave, compiler of the *Golden Treasury of Lyrical Poetry*, Great Yarmouth, 1824; Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France 1917-20, Mouilleron-en-Pareds, 1841; Sir John Denton French, 1st Earl of Ypres, C-in-C of the British Expeditionary Force in France 1914-15, Ripple, Kent, 1852; Pietro Badoglio, Marshal of Italy and Prime Minister 1943-44, Grazzano, Piedmont, 1871; Sir Charles Petrie, historian, Liverpool, 1895; Peter Finch, actor, London, 1916.

slovakia, martyred, Starn Boleslav, 929; Thomas Day, author, killed by a fall from a horse at Wargrave, Berkshire, 1789; Herman Melville, novelist and poet, New York, 1891; Louis Pasteur, bacteriologist, St Cloud, France, 1895; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, San Marino, California, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, 1959; Arthur (Harpo) Marx, comedian, Hollywood, 1964; André Breton, Surrealist poet, Paris, 1966; Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt 1956-70, Cairo, 1970; Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and choreographer, Sydney, 1986; Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter, Santa Monica, California, 1991.

The Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon, 490BC.

Polish immigrant Simon Marks and Yorkshireman Tom Spencer opened their Penny Bazaar, Manchester, 1894.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS:
Tintoretto, painter, Venice, 1518; Miguel de Cervantes, author of *Don Quixote*, Alcala de Henares, Spain, 1547; François Boucher, painter, Paris, 1703; Robert Clive, Baron Clive of Plassey, governor of Bengal, Styche, Shropshire, 1725; Horatio Nelson, Viscount Nelson, Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, 1758; Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, London, 1810; Henry Hobson Richardson, architect, St James, Louisiana, 1838; Miguel de Unamuno, poet, Bilbao, 1864; Enrico Fermi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1938, Rome, 1901; Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp promoter, South Africa, 1899.

DEATHS:
Emile Zola, novelist, Paris, 1902; Winslow Homer, painter, Prout's Neck, Maine, 1910; William Einthoven, physician, pioneer of electro-cardiography, Nobel laureate 1924, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Cullers, novelist, Nyack, New York, 1967; W.H. Auden, poet, Vienna, 1973.

King Richard II, reigned 1377-99, was deposed by Henry Bolingbroke (King Henry IV), 1399.

The London police, remodelled by Sir Robert Peel, began duty, 1829.

The Munich agreement was signed by Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini, 1938.

The first automatic telephone answering machine was tested by the US Bell Telephone Company, 1950.

Constructors' Company

The following have been elected Officers of the Constructors' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr P.A. Everett; Senior Warden, Mr R.V. Wharton; Middle

ON THIS DAY

September 28, 1964

TSR2 was regarded by many experts as an aircraft of remarkable potential and this maiden flight had been eagerly awaited. However, in 1965 the Labour Government scrapped the project.

TSR 2 MAKES ITS FIRST FLIGHT

From Our Defence Correspondent

The TSR 2, Britain's new tactical strike and reconnaissance aircraft, made its long-awaited maiden flight at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, yesterday. The British Aircraft Corporation, who have developed the aircraft on behalf of the Ministry of Aviation and whose deputy chief test pilot, Mr. Roland Beamont, took the aircraft into the air, said the flight was completely successful.

The TSR 2, accompanied by two other aircraft, a Lightning fighter and a Canberra bomber, took off after what the test pilot described as quite a short run and landed 15 minutes later using a braking parachute. It had flown at between 7,000ft. and 10,000ft.

The British Aircraft Corporation agreed that the shortness of the take-off and landing run was not a fact of great significance as the aircraft contained only the minimum electronic and other equipment necessary for the maiden flight. It was not carrying a full fuel load and it had, of course, no weapons or armament.

After the flight the Ministry of Aviation issued a statement by Mr. Amery, the Minister. He said:

"It is good news that the TSR 2 has made a successful maiden flight from the Ministry's experimental establishment at Boscombe Down. The TSR 2 is probably the most complex airborne weapon system ever to be developed. Yet less than four years have passed between placing the development order and the first flight. This is a great tribute to the skill and determination of the British aircraft industry and I salute their achievement. The TSR 2 will go into service with the RAF in about three years' time. It will be a formidable addition to Britain's military power."

The maiden flight begins another chapter in the story of this controversial aircraft. Most aeronautical experts agree that the TSR 2 is a remarkable engineering achievement. Its makers claim that it is capable of high speed at great height and that its contour-riding navigation equipment will enable it to fly very low at high speed, penetrating enemy radar defences by making use of the screening effect of the curvature of the earth.

If the flight programme now begun bears out the maker's claims in full there will be little doubt that the TSR 2 will be the most advanced and complicated airborne weapon system in the world.

Whether in the cold mathematics of cost and effectiveness it will be a justifiable project is another matter. It has been estimated that the development and production of the 50 aircraft at present planned for the Royal Air Force will cost between £400m. and £500m. It is frequently suggested that this sum might have been better spent on a simpler aircraft which could have been produced more quickly and in greater numbers.

The development has reached a stage at which it is unlikely to be abandoned, even if a Labour Government should come to power in October. No effective defence against fast, low-flying aircraft is in sight. If, as Mr. Amery has suggested, the TSR 2 goes into service with the Royal Air Force in three years it is likely to have many years of useful life.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

NEWS

Major not for turning on pound

■ John Major told politicians trying to move him from his wait-and-see policy on the single currency that they were wasting their time and their breath.

In a clear attempt to cool the single currency dispute before the party conference the week after next, the Prime Minister issued his strongest declaration that the policy agreed by the Cabinet earlier this year would not change .... **Page 1**

British Gas halts disconnections

■ British Gas has been forced to suspend all disconnections after thousands of customers got red final warnings before receiving their bills. Some of those customers have even received disconnection notices, the company admitted.................. **Page 1**

Israel deaths

The worst Palestinian-Israeli violence for three decades claimed at least eight more lives as Israeli tanks stood by........ **Pages 1, 12, 13**

Terrorist's friend

Karmele Ereno, the girlfriend of the suspected IRA terrorist shot dead by police, is believed to be in hiding near Bilbao........ **Pages 1, 3**

Afghan leader killed

The hardline Taleban Islamic militia took control of Kabul and immediately executed former President Najibullah ... **Pages 1, 11**

Labour pensions row

Baroness Castle accused Harriet Harman of "talking through her hat" and attempting to "put the frighteners" on trade unions over state pensions..................... **Page 2**

Schools poll

More than half of Labour voters support a scheme for subsidising places at independent schools, said an opinion poll........... **Page 4**

Lung cancer action

Forty people suffering from lung cancer are to sue British tobacco companies in a ground-breaking legal action......................... **Page 5**

Winners and loser

A company selling horseracing computer programs which claimed to pick winners is being investigated by the Official Receiver after a High Court judge said it was "based on a lie" .... **Page 6**

Birds seized

Police from ten forces have seized rare birds of prey in raids on suspected illegal breeders . **Page 7**

Bishop dossier

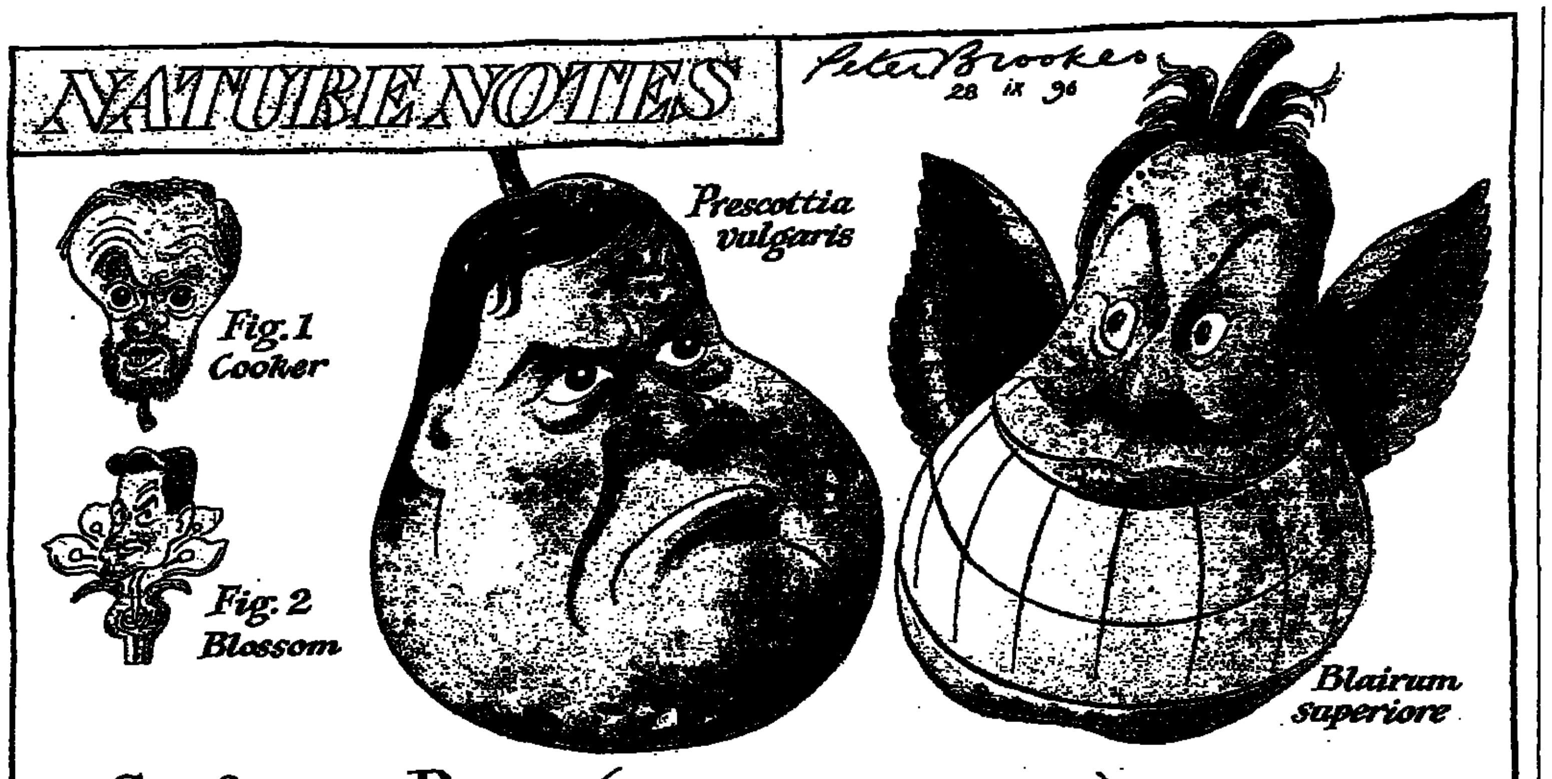
A dossier on the scandal involving Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, is being sent to the Pope .... **Page 8**

Trial postponed

The trial of Jean Paul Akayesu, the first Rwandan to appear before an international tribunal accused of genocide, was postponed. **Page 10**

To let: des. res. with royal neighbours

■The Queen has turned to the commercial property market to let a redundant farmhouse on her private estate at Sandringham in Norfolk. Ling House, a six-bedroom property four miles from the Queen's favourite holiday retreat, will appear in next week's *Country Life* magazine on offer at £20,000 a year............ **Page 1**



Conference Pears (*Newlabora insipidis*)

Acidic yet sweet, rough-skinned yet cultured, this fruit (if served with enough syrup) is palatable to all tastes.

OPINION

The mind's garden: We can applaud the farmer whose fields were over-run by ragwort. He sold it as "summer gold" — and it went to hundreds of vases........... **Page 21**

Weakness: The Commonwealth appears more worried by the appearance of unity among its members than in following up its declarations with action................. **Page 21**

LETTERS

School standards; Royal Opera House; Radio 3; surgeons' standards; IRA; incelibate Popes......................... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The motto of Chequers is, "All care abandon ye who enter here." It has rarely been obeyed .. **Page 20**

David Pryce-Jones: The Gaza Strip is a slum as grim as any to be found, and the Israelis were grateful to be rid of it. The Palestinians believed that their empowerment was underway **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Muhammad Najibullah, Afghanistan president; **I.E.S. Edwards**, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, 1955-74 ..... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

The BBC has entered negotiations with Discovery Communications of America and Flextech, its sister company in Britain, to launch its first pay-TV channels ...... **Page 25**

Morgan Grenfell: The Serious Fraud Office will open a formal investigation early week next into the way in which Peter Young, the Morgan Grenfell manager, ran two European funds before he was dismissed..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 13.2 to 3946.4. Sterling rose to 86.9 after rising from $1.5623 to $1.5633 and DM2.3767 to DM2.3833................. **Page 28**

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill will drive for the Footwork Arrows team, which has scored only one point this season........................**Page 48**

Football: Liverpool have been drawn against Sion, of Switzerland, in the Cup Winners' Cup...................**Page 48**

Golf: Jim Payne and Costantino Rocca shared the lead after two rounds of the Smurfit European Open in Dublin.........................**Page 44**

CARS

The cost of biking helmets; vintage scooters

ARTS

Sensible Kate: Kate Winslet has cornered the market in costume heroines, from Jane Austen to the Thomas Hardy adaptation, *Jude*............. **Page 16**

New star: The Hubble Telescope took pictures so good that they inspired an exhibition..............**Page 17**

Madly dull: Jack Shepherd's *King Lear* has a doubled-up cast, no interval, and not enough excitement............ **Page 19**

Bridge too far: What we want from a new habitable Thames bridge is the old one back .... **Page 19**

SECTIONS

MAGAZIN

John Prescott: Bridge be tween the old and the ne Labour .... Pag

Wild children: Are drug the easy way out? Page

WEEKEND

Wild Britain: A series our plant heritage

Books: Ghosts, dancin and horror .... Pages 12,

Travel: The Cape, Indone sia, and cruising 17-

10 15

Sofia's choice: Sofia Cop pola on her career. Page

Win: five sets of Microso software to be won Page

VISION

Wild affair: *Wilderness*, an extraordinary love story, Monday, ITV, 9pm

New series: *Drop the Dead Donkey* (Tuesday)

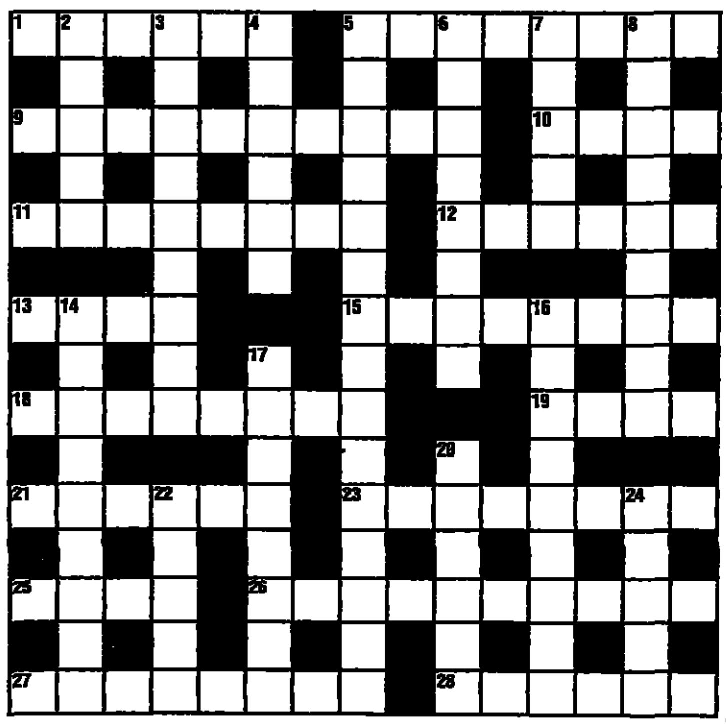
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,285

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



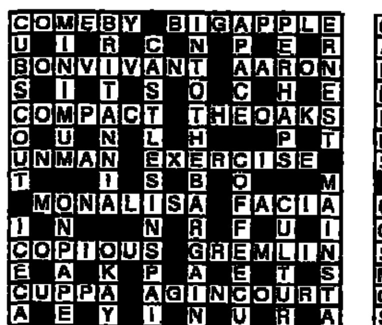
ACROSS

1 Start exchanging halves, to compensate (6).
5 Beat standard sort of cake (8).
9 One taken in by PC to give information? (6,4).
10 Mingle, hugging new, lively girl (4).
11 The same soldiers knock back what's pulled at opening time (8).
12 Hooligan harbours a yen for organisation (6).
13 Love that's not affected by negative sign (4).
15 Mexican farm-hand managed nasty chore (8).
18 I cover the surface of a pot all over in Indian language (8).
19 Revolutionary teacher assesses oral (4).
21 Bob is queasy – what's in that rich soup? (6).
23 Diamonds and money – temptation for youngster? (3,5).
25 Greeting traveller from across the sea (4).
26 Small advance protecting province from outdated culture? (10).
27 Curse criminal that's very determined (4-4).
28 Lord of the jungle (6).

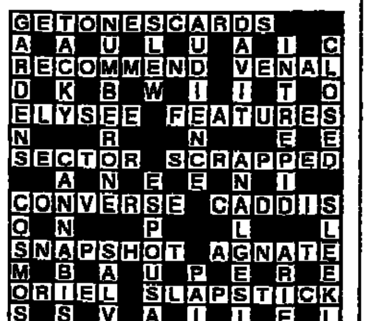
DOWN

2 Govt. Dept. has painting put up – an original print (5).
3 Prove a sun may explode? So it does! (9).
4 Tiresome expenditure of effort (6).
5 Fellow intoning "freedom" on the gallows? It's silly gossip (15).
6 Somewhat caustic, start off conversation with a row (8).
7 Having a lot of traffic? That's lucky! (5).
8 Chestnut, say, runs round ring as winner (9).
14 Clarify tricky clue I'd got stuck into? (9).
16 He's entitled to occupy new room he refurbished (9).
17 Pre-prepared envelope carrying special label is worth buying (8).
20 Gaze, half abstracted – very much a fanatic (6).
22 Put down pen, having change of heart (5).
24 Beast of burden turning up a sheltered street (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,279



Solution to Puzzle No 20,284



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *R A Tingvoll, Croydon, Surrey; B Harris, Rinsey, Helston; R L Helmore, Saffron Walden, Essex; S G Miall, Taplow, Buckinghamshire; T R G Cox, Bishop's Waltham.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.57 am Sun sets: 6.45 pm

Moon sets 8.27 am Moon rises 7.30 pm

Last quarter October 4

London 6.45 pm to 6.58 am
Bristol 6.54 pm to 7.08 am
Edinburgh 6.55 pm to 7.12 am
Manchester 6.52 pm to 7.07 am
Penzance 7.07 pm to 7.19 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.58 am Sun sets: 6.42 pm

Moon sets 9.41 am Moon rises 8.02 pm

Last quarter October 4

London 6.42 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 6.52 pm to 7.10 am
Edinburgh 6.53 pm to 7.14 am
Manchester 6.50 pm to 7.09 am
Penzance 7.04 pm to 7.21 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.06	7.6	2.20	7.5
Aberdeen	1.28	4.6	2.01	4.5
Avonmouth	7.42	14.3	8.03	14.5
Belfast	11.40	3.6	11.57	3.8
Cardiff	7.38	13.3	7.58	13.4
Devonport	6.18	5.7	6.37	5.8
Dover	11.35	7.2	11.58	7.0
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12.07	4.1
Falmouth	5.46	5.4	6.08	5.6
Greenock	0.51	3.8	1.13	3.6
Harwich	-	-	12.14	4.3
Holyhead	10.48	5.9	11.03	6.1
Hull (Albert D)	6.28	8.4	7.02	8.0
Ilfracombe	6.29	9.9	6.50	10.1
King's Lynn	6.34	7.5	6.59	7.2
Leith	2.49	6.0	3.18	6.0
Liverpool	11.45	9.8	-	-
Lowestoft	9.45	2.8	10.25	2.5
Margate	0.28	5.0	12.36	5.0
Milford Haven	6.37	7.5	6.57	7.6
Newquay	5.29	7.3	5.48	7.4
Oban	6.04	4.1	6.27	4.4
Penzance	5.02	5.9	5.22	6.1
Portland	7.24	2.3	7.43	2.4
Portsmouth	11.55	5.0	-	-
Shoreham	11.56	6.8	-	-
Southampton	11.16	4.9	11.33	4.6
Swansea	6.48	10.1	7.09	10.3
Tees	3.52	5.9	4.21	5.8
Walton-on-Naze	-	-	12.14	4.5

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Heathrow 21C (70F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Sandown, Isle of Wight, 0.58in; highest sunshine: Southport, Merseyside, 9.3hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have bright or sunny intervals with frequent blustery showers. There will be a fresh to strong southwesterly wind, perhaps reaching gale force at times in the west. More persistent rain will spread from the west later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, heaviest and most frequent in the northwest where there may be thunder. Later more persistent and quite heavy rain will extend into northern and western parts.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, Central N, NE England:** sunny intervals and blustery showers. Wind fresh, southwesterly. Mild. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, dying out but further rain later. Wind fresh, locally strong, southwesterly. Mild. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, dying out but further rain later. Wind strong, west to southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, dying out but further rain later. Wind strong to gale, southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, dying out but further rain later. Wind strong to gale, southwesterly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Outlook for Sunday and Monday:** continuing unsettled and windy with showers or longer periods of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

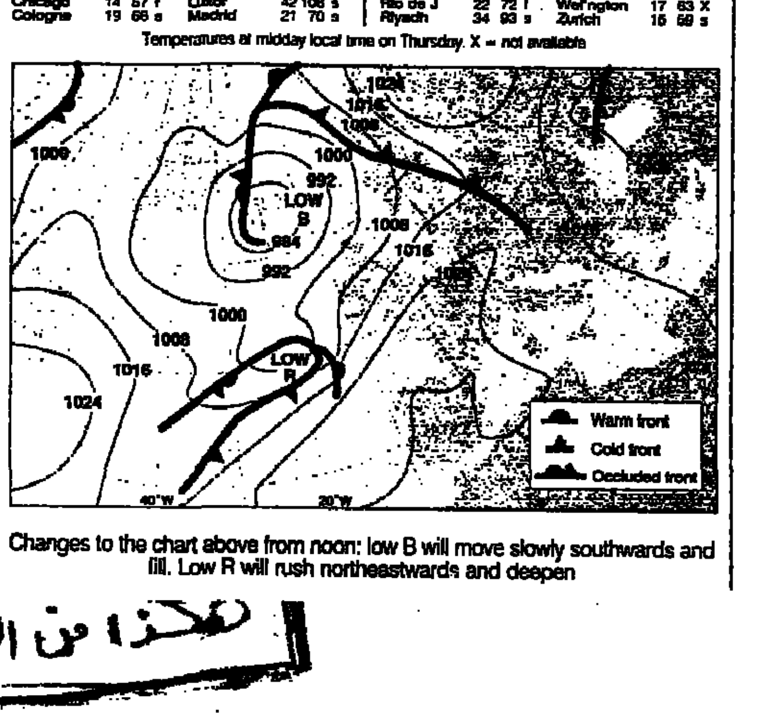
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.6	0.01	16	61	s	Littlehmptn	5.3	0.13	20	68	sh
Anglesey	7.9	0.02	17	63	s	London	3.3	0.01	19	66	sh
Aspatria	8.7	0.04	15	59	s	Lowestoft	7.9	-	19	66	s
Aviemore	5.9	0.08	15	59	sh	Manchester	8.7	0.08	17	63	sh
Belfast	8.5	0.12	15	59	sh	Margate	6.6	0.06	19	66	t
Birmingham	7.5	0.03	18	64	s	Minehead	7.8	0.25	17	63	sh
Bognor R	5.8	0.17	20	68	sh	Morecambe	X				
Bournem'th	7.9	0.10	19	66	sh	Newcastle	7.8	0.02	16	61	sh
Bristol	6.2	0.08	17	63	s	Newquay	7.3	0.12	17	63	s
Buxton	6.3	0.01	14	57	s	Norwich	7.8	0.05	19	66	s
Cardiff	5.7	0.35	17	63	sh	Oxford	5.8	0.05	18	64	sh
Clacton	6.9	0.02	19	66	sh	Penzance	X	0.02	18	64	s
Colwyn Bay	X					Poole	X				
Cromer	8.7	0.11	18	64	s	Prestatyn	X	0.06	17	63	s
Dunbar	8.4	-	17	63	s	Ross-o-wye	7.2	0.05	18	64	s
Eastbourne	X					Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	7.8	0.04	16	61	sh	Salcombe	7.1	0.11	18	64	b
Eskdalemuir	7.0	0.06	14	57	s	Sandown	6.6	0.58	19	66	sh
Exmouth	7.7	0.01	17	63	s	Sauntn Snd	4.9	0.16	17	63	s
Falmouth	7.4	0.02	17	63	s	Scarboro'	9.0	0.01	15	59	s
Fishguard	8.0	0.02	15	59	s	Shanklin	8.3	X	X	X	r
Folkestone	6.8	0.08	18	64	b	Shrewsbury	6.4	0.02	17	63	sh
Glasgow	8.2	0.28	16	61	sh	Skegness	X				
Guernsey	8.9	0.07	19	66	s	Southend	3.7	0.01	19	66	b
Hastings	X					Southport	9.3	0.09	16	61	s
Hayling I.	5.6	0.08	19	66	sh	Southsea	5.6	0.05	20	68	sh
Herne Bay	6.2	0.15	19	66	t	Stornoway	4.4	0.21	13	55	r
Hove	4.9	0.07	18	64	sh	Swanage	7.8	0.30	18	64	s
Hunstanton	7.9	0.06	17	63	s	Teignmouth	8.5	0.01	18	64	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	6.4	0.09	17	63	s
Isle of Man	8.3	0.07	16	61	s	Tiree	6.7	0.08	14	57	sh
Jersey	7.4	0.17	18	64	s	Torquay	8.6	0.19	19	66	s
Kinloss	7.7	0.02	17	63	s	Tynemouth	-	0.01	17	63	s
Leeds	7.5	0.04	17	63	s	Ventnor	7.7	0.33	18	64	s
Lerwick	X					West-s-mare	5.2	0.35	17	63	s
Leuchars	8.6	0.01	16	61	sh	Weymouth	7.8	0.13	18	64	s

ABROAD

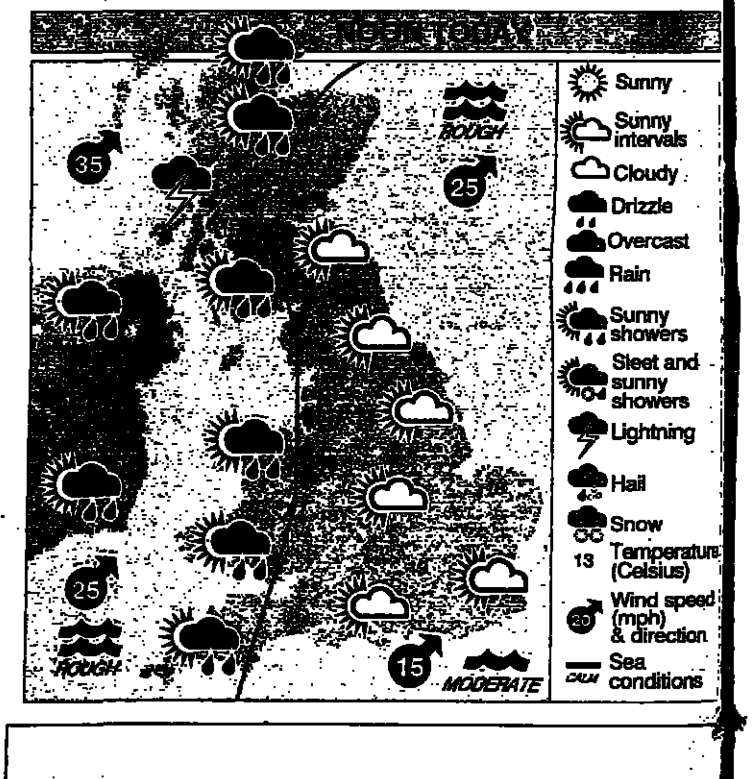
Ajaccio	21	70	s	Corfu	17	63	t	Majorca	23	73	f	Rome	21	70	f
Akrotiri	25	77	s	C'phagn	14	57	s	Malaga	23	73	s	S Fr'isco	14	57	c
Alex'dria	28	82	s	Dublin	16	61	c	Malta	27	81	f	S Paulo	22	72	c
Algiers	24	75	f	Dubrovnik	20	68	c	Melb'rne	12	54	r	Salzburg	12	54	f
Amst'dm	17	63	f	Faro	23	73	s	Mexico C	23	73	f	Santiago	17	63	s
Athens	27	81	s	Florence	21	70	f	Miami	31	88	s	Seoul	25	77	c
B Aires	18	64	f	Frankfurt	16	61	s	Milan	21	70	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	35	95	s	Funchal	22	72	f	Montreal	18	64	s	St'kholm	12	54	b
Bangkok	32	90	t	Geneva	16	61	s	Moscow	12	54	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Barbados	26	79	c	Gibraltar	26	79	s	Munich	13	55	c	Sydney	23	73	s
Barcelona	23	73	s	Helsinki	13	55	s	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tangier	23	73	s
Beirut	27	81	f	Hong K	29	84	f	N York	19	66	s	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Belgrade	15	59	f	Innsbrck	14	57	f	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	27	81	c
Berlin	12	54	c	Istanbul	23	73	s	Naples	19	66	f	Tokyo	21	70	r
Bermuda	26	79	s	Jeddah	41	106	s	Nice	21	70	s	Toronto	17	63	f
Biarritz	21	70	s	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Oslo	9	48	c	Tunis	25	77	f
Borde'x	21	70	f	L Angels	20	68	c	Paris	18	64	f	Valencia	24	75	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	26	79	f	Peking	25	77	s	Vanc'ver	14	57	s
Budapest	14	57	s	Le Tquet	16	61	f	Perth	16	61	c	Venice	19	66	f
Cairo	31	88	s	Lisbon	24	75	s	Prague	10	50	c	Vienna	13	55	r
Cape Tn	14	57	c	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	11	52	f	Warsaw	9	48	c
Ch'church	22	72	X	Luxembg	16	61	s	Rhodes	25	77	s	Wash'ton	20	68	c
Chicago	14	57	r	Luxor	42	108	s	Rio de J	22	72	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	19	66	s	Madrid	21	70	s	Riyadh	34	93	s	Zurich	15	59	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low B will move slowly southwards and fill. Low R will rush northeastwards and deepen

NOON TODAY



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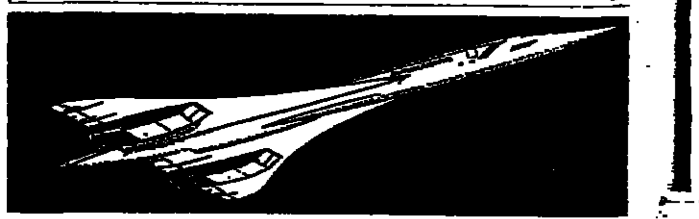

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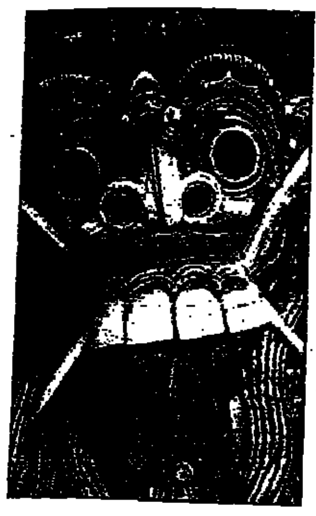
TRAVEL



Delights of the secret Indonesian island

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Tasty tips from the Tomato Growers' Club

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Parent's guide to buying a student home

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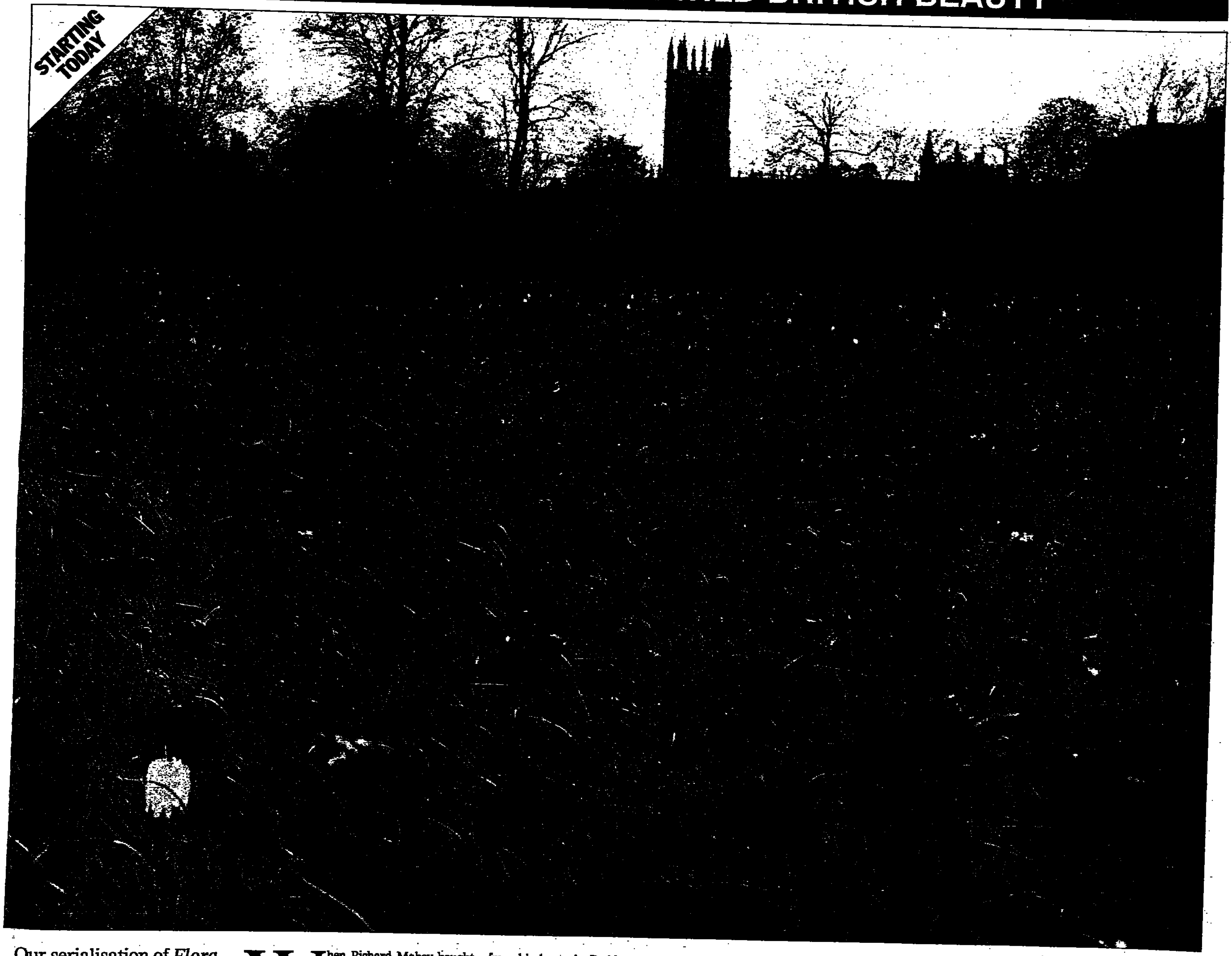
WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

FLORA BRITANNICA – OUR WILD BRITISH BEAUTY

STARTING TODAY



Our serialisation of *Flora Britannica*, the definitive new guide to Britain's wild plants, starts today. Here **Derwent May** meets the author, Richard Mabey

When Richard Mabey bought 16 acres of woodland in the Chilterns 14 years ago it was a dank, dark place. Now it has been opened up to the light and is flourishing again. Twenty-five different kinds of tree grow there, all of which have sprung up naturally, and the last fading flowers of an uncommon orchid, violet helleborine, show under the beeches. In spring there are nine different colour-varieties of bluebell. The wood, a few miles from his home in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, is a "community wood" — restored with the help of people in the local villages and without gates, so they can walk and picnic there freely — and has both confirmed and confounded some of the beliefs about wild plants that *Flora Britannica* explores.

Mabey is proud of the young oaks that have sprouted from last year's great crop of acorns, not least because they demolish the myth that oaks are reluctant to set seed, and he noted the reluctance of the "serious scientific ecologists", whom he consulted about his trees, to recommend cutting down any hollies, a tree widely believed to bring bad luck if felled.

Flora Britannica is not an identification guide, though it covers almost every plant you are likely to see in Britain and has beautiful colour photographs of many of them. It is a record, species by species, of the innumerable relationships between our wild plants and the people who live among them.

In Ducklington, Oxfordshire, Mabey visited a field where the beautiful purple and white snake's-head fritillaries grow every spring (pictured above, at nearby Magdalen meadow) and, once a year on "Fritillary Sunday", people are allowed in to look at them or pick them for charity. "I found everyone in the village was very aware of the flowers. There were even fritillaries shown in the stained-glass windows and pew cushions in the church." Mabey had already

Continued on page 2

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Part one: how nature-worship icons became symbols of Christianity

One of the giant yews — probably five centuries old — in Kingley Vale, Sussex, where there is a central core of ancient trees and bird-sown specimens up to 100 years old

In England (although much less so in Nonconformist areas of Scotland and Wales) wild plants figure conspicuously in both churches and churchyards. There are good historical reasons for this. Christian churches often developed on the sites of pre-Christian and Celtic holy places, inheriting some of their nature-worship icons — old yew trees, for example — and Christianising practices such as the hanging-up of winter greenery. They were also centres of culture and craftsmanship, where medicinal herbs were cultivated, and where ceremonies and rituals involving plants — weddings, funerals, harvest festivals, beatings of the bounds — were based.

Over a period of more than a thousand years, all this activity has left a rich legacy of plants, both real and representational, inside the territory of the church. The churchyard has also become a sanctuary for plants. At a time when unimproved grassland has all but disappeared across much of agricultural Britain, "God's Acres" are in many parishes *the last refuges for species such as* meadow saxifrage, green-winged orchid and hoary plantain. Many other species have become naturalised from memorial posies and wreaths: lily-of-the-valley, snowdrop (whose pure white blooms have long been accepted by the Roman Catholic Church as a symbol of Candlemas), primroses (the Victorian custom was to plant them on the graves of small children), garden forget-me-nots, and even rosemary "for remembrance".

Yews have a remarkable and probably unique association with ancient churches. At least 500 churchyards in England and Wales alone contain yew trees *that are certainly as* old as the church itself, and quite likely a good deal older. Yews of great age are rare outside churchyards, *and no other type of ancient tree* occurs so frequently inside the church grounds. I do not know of any similarly exclusive relationship between places of worship and a single tree species existing anywhere else in the Western world.

It is obviously a meaningful association, however cryptic. In the village of Fortingall, Perthshire, there are living fragments of the shell of a stupendous yew. It stands in the corner of a churchyard where there has been a building for worship since before the Reformation. Nearby there are groups of ancient, possibly Druidical stones. In 1769 the girth of the *tree was measured at 52 feet, but it* was already a hollow ring of wooden pillars and funeral processions reputedly passed *through* the trunk. There is a legend that Pontius Pilate (whose father was supposedly a legionary stationed in Scotland) played under its branches. Guesses about its age range from 2,000 to 9,000 years.

THE CHURCH AND THE YEW

There have been mundane explanations for yews' presence in churchyards: that they were planted in these protected plots to provide wood for *long-bows and to keep their poison*ous foliage out of the reach of cattle; to provide decoration for the church, or as a *memento mori*.

The theory that yews were planted in churchyards not as emblems of mortality but, because of their evergreen foliage, of *im*mortality and resurrection has been difficult to relate to a specifically Christian tradition. As more and more ancient yews have been examined, the more it has seemed that many are not just "coeval" with the church, but vastly older. Circumstantial evidence in the form of earthworks, local legends and the sheer physical bulk of many of the trees has suggested ages of up to at least 2,000 years.

In the 1940s the historian and naturalist Vaughan Cornish surveyed many of the yews in British dioceses and parishes, and concluded (although without a great deal of solid evidence) that the oldest were the sacred trees of ancient religions, some Druidic, some Celtic, and a few, maybe, relics of pre-Celtic Iberian settlers (hence their frequency in Wales). And, like many pagan icons and practices, they were retained and pragmatically sanctified by the Christian church.

The story of the yew in St Mary's churchyard in Selborne, Hampshire, encompasses the sacred, secular and commonplace. *After its abrupt col*lapse during the great gale on January 25, 1990, white bones from ancient burials were brought up to the surface and lay tangled in the root-ball. They were quickly taken into custody in the nearby Field Studies Centre, to protect them from dogs and other predators, and permission for an emergency archaeological dig was obtained from the diocese, on the understanding that all human remains would be reburied in the churchyard.

In the course of the next week, two archaeologists from the Hampshire Museums' Service uncovered the *remains of about 30 individuals*, several of which were complete burials in their original positions. They were all apparently Christian *burials, in shallow graves beneath* the root-mass. The earliest, and the deepest, was dated by pottery from the grave-fill to about AD 1200.

People from all over Britain, who had once lived in Selborne, came to buy or beg a piece of wood from the tree; one man retrieved a fragment for his parents who became engaged under it. Some of the wood taken from the larger branches has been made into artefacts for the church and a yew font-cover and altar screen now join the rough yew cross that has long hung over the nave. A cutting, taken while the tree was still alive, was planted in the churchyard in *November 1992 by the youngest and* oldest citizens in the parish.

Most yew plantings these days are not of the wild variety, but of the tidier but blander fastigiate variety, or Irish yew, whose branches all sweep evenly upwards, as if they had been bound into a bundle. They are mostly descendants of two trees found on a limestone crag in Fermanagh in the 1760s and presumably ousted "normal" wild trees because of their resemblance to Mediterranean funereal cypresses, and for the ease with which they could be clipped — and even "topiarised" — into order. The clippings have recently become commercially valuable. An alkaloid named taxol, which seems effective against ovarian cancer, has been discovered in yews, and research laboratories and drug companies are offering to buy the foliage in bulk.

● *The Yew Tree Millennium Project, launched this week, hopes to plant 13,000 yew trees, grown from 2,000-year-old stock; in parishes throughout Britain. For more details, write to the Conservation Foundation, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR*

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

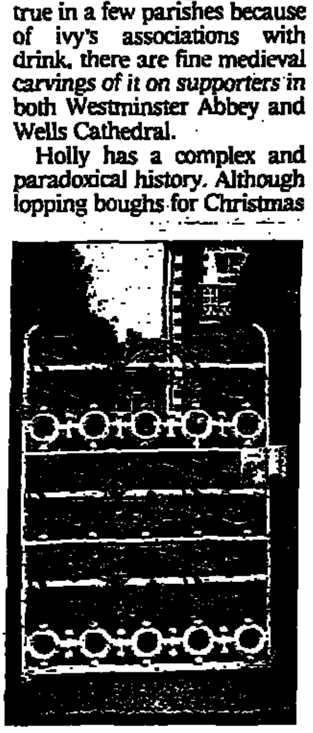
THE use of evergreen plants to decorate houses at the midwinter solstice is a custom that long antedates Christianity. Evergreens, flourishing when all other plants seem dead, were symbols of the continuity of life through the dark season. In ancient Rome garlands were made from Mediterranean bay, box, rosemary, pines and evergreen oak. In Britain the native holly, ivy and mistletoe were (and still are) favoured.

Attitudes towards ivy have been ambivalent since classical times. In the days of sympathetic magic, ivy's ability to smother grape-vines persuaded early herbalists that its berries could overcome the malign effects of alcohol. But ivy was also seen as a weak, "feminine" plant, contrasted in mythology and poetry with the red-blooded, prickly holly.

The most frequent uses of ivy that still seem touched by ancient beliefs about its magical powers are in cattle-farming. It is still used sometimes as emergency winter food, but it is seen as having a protective role as well.

The inclusion in Christmas greenery and rituals is the high point of ivy's ceremonial year. But the best known of all ivy rhymes, the carol *The Holly and the Ivy*, remains something of a conundrum: *The holly and the ivy/When they are both full grown/Of all the trees that are in the wood/The holly bears the crown.* Ivy is not a tree and makes no other appearance in the full carol, which is devoted to the Christian symbolism of holly. A white witch from Yorkshire wrote to suggest that the carol is a satire on the battle of the sexes; also that ivy is banned as a decoration in churches. Although this was true in a few parishes because of ivy's associations with drink, there are fine medieval *carvings of it on supporters in* both Westminster Abbey and Wells Cathedral.

Holly berries are still used as an informal divination



A gate with an ivy design in Coverack, Cornwall

Holly has a complex and paradoxical history. Although lopping boughs for Christmas is "allowed", there is still a belief that cutting down whole holly trees will bring bad luck. We use the berries, too, in a kind of informal divination, seeing bumper crops as a sign of hard weather rather than as a result of a good spring.

LIKE the elder, holly was believed to have power over horses, and its pliable wood made it the favourite for whips. There are several customs in which holly seems to be regarded as proof against fire. One contributor wrote: "I remember being told when I lived in a village on the Isle of Wight with constant thunderstorms, that holly trees were often planted on either side of a building as a form of lightning conductor."

But the most persistent, *trusting* use of holly is as a *boundary tree, as a constant in* the landscape. Why should holly have this special indemnity? It seems that many hollies survive because of the stubborn persistence of the belief that cutting down the trees brings bad luck. In Suffolk and Worcestershire forestry workers are still reluctant to fell hollies. And from every part of the country people have written with stories of disasters that ensued — with a time-lag of as much as 40 years — when the taboo was broken.

The odd thing is that this superstition should coexist with the sanctioning of cutting holly *branches* for Christmas. *In pre-Christian times*, holly was a powerful fertility symbol and a charm against witchcraft and house goblins. The custom was easily accommodated by Christianity, holly standing for the crown of thorns and the berries for Christ's blood. Yet echoes of the old religion linger, and there is still a fixed routine for taking down the Christmas greenery.

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Continued from page 1

written about flowers and *people in his book and BBC2* film, *The Flowering of Britain* in 1980, and about the wild fruits of the countryside and seashore in his first book, *Food for Free*, published in 1972.

The *Flora Britannica* project started in 1991 when he *was talking to the conserva*tion society Plant Life, a leafy equivalent of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who wanted to find out from their members how many of the rural names of flowers were still current. That led to the idea of consulting much larger numbers of people about the place wild flowers and trees had in their lives.

Mabey wanted to go further. He wanted to find out — by asking British people — whether nature had now dwindled to no more than an object of nostalgia in their lives, or whether it was still entwined in their everyday *habits and beliefs*.

At that time he had a regular spot on the Sunday morning BBC1 programme, *Country File*, and he made an appeal for help to its viewers. A brochure about the project was also included in the BBC *Wildlife* magazine. "I asked not only about any modern folklore that they knew," Mabey says, "but also about any way in which they took an interest in wild flowers — eating them, picking them, protecting them, whatever. I was after true social history, *an up-to-date ecology of plants* and human beings."

And the answers poured in, many thousands of them, from scribbles on the back of a postcard to 30-page essays. "It was not only National Trust members in Surrey, as it were, who replied. It was farmers' wives, every kind of person who had lived in the country." Soon Mabey had acquired grants from English Nature and the Countryside Commission, a publisher — Sinclair-*Stevenson — who provided* some money for research, and two full-time research assistants to help him sort the material.

At one point he was overcome by pessimism. There had evidently been enormous interest in nature in even the *recent past, but how much was* surviving still? "I asked a teacher at a local school to see what her children could come up with, and she came and reported glumly that they had produced hardly anything. I was really gloomy after that. Then, one day, I went for a *walk with these children. It* was a revelation. They knew so much about the plants! Which were the grasses that *were best for holding to your* lips and whistling, which flowers — white dead-nettle and so on — gave a little honey if you sucked them. It had just not seemed like 'school knowledge' to them. All my faith came back again."

What has he learnt after five *years of these experiences?* "I feel I have had a massive course in history, anthropology and botany. Above all, though, I have learnt much more about what our relationship with plants can be. It's not just a matter of conserving and protecting them. Important as it is, conservation can sometimes produce a quite impersonal relationship with nature, a purely scientific concern with numbers rather than any affectionate feeling."

Was his book, nevertheless, much more than a history of our past relationships with plants? Could it have an influence on the future? "I hope it can. I like to think that the experiences I report, of *people's involvement with the* countryside, give a model of a natural, easy relationship. It *shows how people can live* with the natural world."

As well as plants that affect our lives, his book records "any plant that could offer pleasure", such as a little blue flower called bugle, the leaves of which are described thus: *"They have a sheen of purple*-brown on a dark green base, rather like metal which has been tempered in a fire."

Did he find any respondents describing mystical relationships with plants? "Well, not really, not like Druids, though I did get one letter from a rune-*maker*, as he described himself, who only inscribed or engraved his runes on holly. But in a more general way, *what often cropped up was* what you could perhaps describe as a kind of mystical relationship with the countryside as a whole. I could not include that type of passage in the book, but I was very struck by it — a kind of joy and awe and reverence."

His next book will be about his own wood. "Then I'd like to write a book about plants in John Clare's poems. And then, perhaps, a light-hearted guide to the Mediterranean landscape." That will be a new departure for him. But if he goes, he will leave behind a superb book about the flowers and trees he loves in Britain.

● *Richard Mabey would welcome further contributions about wild plants in Britain. They may be sent to him at: Flora Britannica, c/o Common Ground, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA.*

Cover picture of snake's-head fritillaries at Magdalen College, Oxford
by ANDREW LAWSON

Other pictures on this page
by BOB GIBBONS/
NATURAL IMAGE and
GARETH LOVETT
JONES

Edited extracts on this page are from Flora Britannica *to be published by Sinclair-Stevenson on October 7 1996 at £30.* © 1996 *Richard Mabey.*

NEXT WEEK

PLANT MAGIC AND MEDICINE
Custom, superstition and the role of wild plants in folk medicine

SEE PAGE 4 THIS WEEK FOR THE *FLORA BRITANNICA* BOOK OFFER

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This is matchmaking month in Ireland, but will the husband-hunters flee after tasting their first Irish food on the ferry to Cork?

For the love of a potato cake

HOME MADE

Paul Heiney

If you ever go across the sea to Ireland . . . take sandwiches, especially if you are travelling on the daily ferry from Swansea to Cork. I have made three crossings this year and, much as I would prefer to find no fault with this clean, punctual and convenient ship, I cannot say a single good word about its cafeteria.

One small step from shore to ship, one giant leap backwards for mankind: to the dreary days of 1960s motorway food and the flaccid, greasy stuff that Egon Ronay spent years of his campaigning life trying to ensure was never inflicted upon us ever again.

Fish, chips and peas may seem tempting but you soon discover that the fish has been to the fat what blotting paper is to Quink; the chips seem but a distant relation of the potato, and I am deeply suspicious that the peas and diced carrots were swimming in the same tepid water when I crossed last week as they were when I last saw them in early May.

My concern stems not from self-interest but because we now read that the remote, windswept, tranquil southwestern part of Ireland, to which this ferry provides a convenient gateway, is becoming the fashionable destination for the chattering and theatrical classes. France's loss is County Cork's gain. Here they find a new Gironde, but with added Guinness; Provence with potatoes. But whereas they were able to drive through France nibbling charcuterie and patisserie, they now have to start their creative break with the greasy offerings of that floating cafeteria.

I fear that one year, the Jeremys — Irons and Paxman — not to mention half the cast of the latest Jane Austen film, will all return to shock their public with spots. There is only so much healing power in a pint of stout.

Even more worrying is what it may do to the romantic prospects of a considerable number of single men living in the west of Ireland and desperate for a wife. We are, I read in the Irish press, in the middle of matchmaking month. Not only is this a time when lonely hearts of the same nation come together, it also heralds a flush of romantically inclined ladies from as far afield as Russia and Poland, who are quoted as saying that "they are very willing to work hard to please an Irish farmer husband". But will they still be so after the crossing from Swansea to Cork? I doubt it. They will think all food in Ireland is like this, and be on the next bus back to the Urals before you can say Clonakilty Black Pudding. How much better, then, if this ship could tempt and tease us with some of the treats that lie in wait for the visitor to Ireland, and extend the bliss of Irish eating on the way back.

What about the beguiling potato cake, made from that vegetable which has been historically a fickle friend to the Irish? They come in various guises; some like a scone, others sweetened with mixed peel.

For a versatile potato cake, take 8oz of mashed potato, 1½oz of flour, 1oz of butter, a large egg and 2tbs of chopped mixed peel. Add the flour to the potatoes while mixing and stop when you get to a stiff dough, or arm. Add the butter, having melted it, and then add the beaten yolk of the egg followed by the stiffly beaten white. Throw a sod of turf on to the fire, and fry till brown. If you do not want it sweet, use finely chopped onion instead of peel, and with a fried egg and a thick slab of Irish bacon on your plate your spirits will be boosted to the point where you offer marriage to the first person you bump into in the street.

For a truly romantic, traditional Irish treat, however, how about that most delicious of teabreads, the Hallowe'en Brack? Eaten at the end of October, it is a cake for lovers, as you will discover. I made one last week while staying in a cottage beside a grey, stone harbour and looking out on to some islands.

Braec (meaning speckled) can be made like bread using yeast, or more quickly and easily with baking powder. The romantically inclined will not want to risk their brack not rising at the crucial moment, so I thoroughly recommend the safer baking powder method (recipe thanks to Theodora Fitzgibbon's *Irish Traditional Food*).

As one is always doing in Ireland, I made a large pot of tea (Barry's is best) and, having drunk one cup, allowed the big brown pot to cool and then soaked 1lb each of sultanas, raisins and brown sugar in the rest of the tea (no milk). Then, to the soaked fruit I added 1lb of flour, 3 beaten eggs, 3tsp of baking powder and 3 of mixed spice. I turned all this into a cake tin and then, most importantly and traditionally, placed a ring in the centre. (Whoever gets the slice with the ring in it shall have marriage proposed to them.) Bake your brack for 90 minutes at 325F. Brush lovingly with honey to glaze.

When the brack is cool, slice carefully to ensure that the ring ends up on the right plate. Make sure the priest does not get it. They are touchy about that sort of thing these days.

REUTER/TIMES IMAGING

No, it's not another award for Emma Thompson . . . this week's cheese "Oscar" was won by Lincolnshire Poacher

The big cheese

DIGEST

Fiona Beckett

THERE seems to be a sudden craze in the food world for award ceremonies. The other week it was the BBC Good Food Awards (Best Food Product of the Year: Martin Pitt Free Range Eggs; Best Equipment Innovation: the Good Grips range of kitchen utensils). This week was the turn of the Oscars of the cheese world, the British Cheese Awards.

Although this sounds like the slightly silly kind of stunt dreamed up by a PR company in fact the awards are now acknowledged within the business as the ultimate seal of recognition. No fewer than 460 British and Irish cheeses were entered for the 53 different classes which have the bizarre sort of names the cheese world seems to favour: Modern British Hard Goat, Soft White Cow, Tasty Block, Cheeseboard Ewe, and Chives and/or Onions (no Garlic).

The judges are a mixture of industry professionals — cheesemakers, retailers and supermarket cheese buyers, and food writers like yours truly. As a novice I drew the short straw and got New and Experimental — a rag-bag of some of the wilder manifestations of the cheesemaker's fancy which included a green-wax-covered cheese shaped as a large shamrock (which we decided must have been designed for the Irish pubs) and an unfortunate-looking dark brown cheese which (hard to word this tactfully) looked like something you might pick up on your shoe off the pavement.

These were, mercifully, the exceptions. I sniffed and nibbled through some of the best cheeses I've ever eaten: freshly young goats' cheeses - light and moussey, delicately tangy; richly unctuous rind-washed cheeses (the pongy kind) which you'd swear were French; beautifully crafted traditional cheddars, rich and mellow with an intense depth of flavour but without the searing edge. Frankly British cheese is now so good that any restaurateur who still offers French cheeses must be off his trolley.

In the end the ultimate Big Cheese — or Supreme Champion, as the organisers put it — was Lincolnshire Poacher, produced by F.W. Read & Sons, a hard cheese typical of the region. Lincolnshire Poacher is a cows' milk cheese, a cross between a cheddar type and an Emmenthal.

If you want a chance to sample these and other British cheeses for yourself, look out for special promotions next week, which is British Cheese Week. You'll find a pretty good selection at Tesco, who sponsored the awards, but there are also many individual cheese shops supporting the event including Broomhall Farm, near Worcester (01905 820232), Ian Mellis of Edinburgh (0131-226 6215), Teddington Cheese in southwest London (0181-977 6868), Wells Stores, Abingdon (01235 535978) and the three London branches of Jeroboam's, who will mail out four of the award-winning cheeses for £20. Call 0171-823 5623.

And if you want to find out more about British cheese you can get a more extensive list of shops and cheeses by sending a cheque for £3.50 to the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, PO Box 448, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 0BF.

Zen-a-leekie

IF YOU have seen the television ads for Baxter's soup featuring soft-focus pictures of Mrs Ena Baxter lovingly tending her stockpot, it comes as a bit of a shock to find this most traditional of Scottish companies launching varieties such as Spicy Thai Chicken with Lemon Grass and Italian Bean and Pasta soup — not the kind of ingredients you would expect to find in the average crofter's cottage.

This is obviously causing the company considerable confusion about what to put on the label. What at first sight appears to be a Scottish loch flanked by the familiar tartan sash on the Thai chicken soup proves, on closer inspection, to feature a Buddhist temple and a few palm trees.

Why Baxter's is going down this route is obvious. Its share of the top end of the soup market must have been significantly eroded by the much sexier fresh soups produced by New Covent Garden Soup Company and various own-brand equivalents, but I think it is a shame. When I visited my local supermarket, all the flashy new varieties were at customer-pulling eye level while the good old stalwarts, such as royal game soup and cock-a-leekie, were skulking on the lower shelves. And there was nairy a sighting of my favourite Scottish soup, cullen skink.

Joint attack

WITH all the recent brouhaha about the hospital operations video, you would think that Simpson's-in-the-Strand was chancing its luck in releasing *The Art of Carving*, a nail-biting 55 minutes on how to dismember a Sunday roast. But as yet I am not aware of any publicity-seeking MP citing evidence of six-year-olds slipping out to buy a set of JA Henckel (the other sponsor) carving knives.

In fact, the video is disappointingly unsensational, with lots of solid and worthy advice about how to tackle the Christmas turkey and what to do with a saddle of lamb. In spite of the flagrant plugs for Simpson's, it would make an excellent wedding present — though I would exercise a modicum of tact about giving it to husbands or dads who fancy themselves as dab hands at carving. They could probably do with it (I learnt that most of the things I had been doing were wrong) but it is that kind of slight which causes family rifts. If you are willing to chance it, you can get a copy from Simpson's at 100 Strand WC2R 0ES (0171-836 9112) or from specialist cookshops for £14.95.

Crunch meeting

A LARGE carving knife might come in handy if you are visiting Asda next week, where you may at any time be pounced upon by a caped "snack attacker" brandishing a pack of Cheezee Wiggles. The point of this ludicrous promotion is that Asda has launched a range of own-brand equivalents to the nation's best-selling snacks: Cheezee Wiggles instead of Wotsits, Cheezee Curls for Quavers, Beastie Bites for Monster Munch and Gringos for Doritos.

It is all pretty silly but Asda is making a serious point. The cost of snacks — which after all contain little but fat, flour and flavourings — is a rip-off. Wotsits, so the shelf ticket at my local supermarket informed me, are 75.7p per 100g. That is roughly £3.43 per lb — as much as I paid at the weekend for 1lb of rump steak. If you can face the snack attacker, it is worth giving Asda's versions a go while they are currently on special promotion at 89p for multi-pack of ten. For what it is worth, my children pronounced the Cheezee Wiggles and Curls superior to the Beastie Bites.

Take your seat for a great British supper

FAST FOOD

eb

TRADITIONAL SUPPER
Serves four

Smoked haddock soup
Sausages with grainy mustard and mashed potatoes
Sweet red cabbage and parsnips
British apples and cheddar

Go for the best ingredients you can find for this supper: farmhouse cheddar, undyed smoked haddock, meaty British bangers and two kinds of apples from this year's crop.

Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables
3 medium parsnips
1kg (2lb 2oz) potatoes
1 onion
½ lemon
500g (1lb 2oz) red cabbage
12 leaves flat-leaf parsley
8 apples (two types)

Meat and fish
12 premium pork sausages
450g (1lb) undyed smoked haddock

Dairy
720ml (1¼pt) milk
75g (3oz) butter
Large piece of good cheddar

Store cupboard
1tbs oil
2tbs redcurrant jelly
2tbs grainy mustard

Drink
300ml (½pt) water/cider/apple juice.
apple juice/cider/beer

■ **Cook the sausages and parsnips**
Pre-heat oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6. Put 12 sausages on a baking tray and put in the oven for 30-40 minutes, until brown. Cut three medium-sized parsnips into finger-sized pieces. Put in a baking dish and cover with 1tbs oil, salt and black pepper. Put in the oven for 30 minutes. Turn the oven down to 130C/250F/Gas mark 1 and leave the sausages and parsnips to keep warm in there.

■ **Cook potatoes**
Peel 1kg (2lb 2oz) potatoes. Put three quarters of the potatoes in a pan of salted water and bring to the boil. Simmer until tender. Drain.

■ **Make soup**
Put 450g (1lb) undyed smoked haddock in a pan, covered by 570ml (1pt) milk. Simmer for five minutes. Meanwhile, soften a diced onion in 30g (1oz) butter. Dice the rest of the potato and add to the onion. Take the fish out of the milk and remove any skin and bones. Add the milk and 300ml (½pt) water to the onion and potato. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the cooked fish in large flakes. Turn off heat. Season with the juice of a quarter to half a lemon, according to taste, and black pepper.

■ **Make red cabbage**
Slice 500g (1lb 2oz) red cabbage. Put in a pan with 300ml (½pt) water, cider or apple juice and 2tbs redcurrant jelly. Cover and cook for 30 minutes to get a good, chewy texture.

■ **Make mash**
Put the drained potatoes in a food processor with 50g (2oz) butter, 2tbs grainy mustard, 150ml (¼pt) milk and salt. Mash. Put in a serving dish in the warming oven.

■ **Serve soup**
Serve in bowls with three whole or torn leaves of flat-leaf parsley on top of each serving.

■ **Serve sausages**
Let guests help themselves to cabbage, mash and sausages.

■ **Serve apples and cheese**
Put two types of British apples in a bowl and a large piece of farmhouse British cheddar on a plate. Eat the fruit and cheese together.

HATTIE ELLIS

CHOCOLATE BOX

FOR THE LAST 20 years or so one of the great status symbols for the deliriously rich was a neat, top hat-shaped box edged with gold and decorated with a black satin band bearing the name "The Ritz". It is a box of chocolates that cannot be bought. It is, or rather was, given to guests of the Ritz who were in particular favour.

Tasteful times have overtaken the little oval box. The management has decided that the box is, well . . . Paul Jackson, who has responsibility for such things, struggled for words when cross-questioned about this one. His uniform tails seemed to twitch as we talked in the glorious pinkness of the Ritz dining room to discuss the future of the Top Hat, as it is known.

Could it be that it was considered vulgar? He could not bring himself to confirm this exactly, although when the

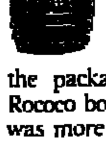
Jeeves like, and made a deft change of subject — to bacon, as I remember it.

Whatever the reason, a change was deemed important and Mr Jackson, having searched hard for the quintessential English chocolate-maker to invent and execute the changes, plumped for Rococo.

Rococo's queen of chocolate, Chantal Coady, set to work and came up with an elegant blue-and-white oval box packed with her own chocolates: ultra-English parma violet creams and rose creams, both topped with crystallised petals and snuggled together with rum truffles and white chocolates.

I took the Top Hat and the Rococo box to a sampling team of five. There was a unanimous verdict of "too sweet, too crude" on the Top Hat chocolates. Most

as better looking, more subtle and less sickly than the others. The only criticism of the Rococo chocolates came from one of Britain's leading libel lawyers, who labelled the violet cream "naff".



THE CHOCOLATE in question has consulted its lawyers and the matter is now *sub judice*. However, there was less unanimity about the packaging. Everybody loved the Rococo box, but reckoned the Top Hat was more fun. "It just looks more like the Ritz," said one of my panel, a South American architect who lived for six months at the Paris Ritz.

JANE OWEN

● *The Ritz, London 0171-493 8181. The selection which makes up the Ritz chocolate box can be bought (without the exclusive box) from Rococo, 321 Kings Road, London SW3 5EP (0171-352 5857) at £2.60 per*

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The tomato taste-hunters

TONY WHITE

Colin and Jane Simpson in the 48ft by 24ft polytunnel at their home in Surrey, where they grow and test about 300 varieties of tomatoes

The founders of the Tomato Growers' Club are putting flavour first

Tomatoes ain't what they used to be. As a result of pressure from the big supermarkets, whose buying power dictates uniformity in size, colour and shape, details such as taste seem to have vanished.

Colin Simpson has pitched himself against this tasteless world and, from a 48ft by 24ft *polytunnel in his garden in* Surrey, he, his wife Jane and son Matthew (and their cat, Roo, whose tail was once used as a pollination duster) fight the tasty tomato fight so that others may produce sweet, full-flavoured tomatoes.

Whether they are brown, yellow, striped, sausage-shaped or plain knobbly, Mr Simpson welcomes every style of tomato, so long as they are tasty. "I am a keen gardener and Jane is an enthusiastic cook," he says.

In 1987 Mr Simpson, a retired journalist, came across a seed catalogue from Oregon which included varieties he had never heard of, so he sent off for some, unaware that importing seed from outside the European Community was illegal. "It was just something to do," he says.

As the Simpson's tomato collection grew, word spread among the *cognoscenti*, who began to send them seed of unusual varieties. Now they have a library of about 2,000 varieties, 300 or so of which they grow and test for flavour and disease resistance.

Members were sent 4,000 seedlings this year

This month their trial crop *of late tomatoes is ready for* eating and the Simpsons have great hope for three varieties in particular: 'Joie de Table', which they discovered on holiday in southern France; 'Essex Wonder', which was grown from three seeds that had survived in a tobacco tin for about 25 years and was sent to the Simpsons by the grandson of the man who stored them (only one failed); and 'Bel Homme's Fortune', a potato-leafed variety said to have once been one of the finest tomatoes on Guernsey.

Growing tomatoes is not an easy living, and has been made all the harder by rules imposed by the EC. To sell seed, each variety has first to be put *on trial* and approved, if it is not already on one of the government-approved seed lists. Trials are costly and have to be funded by the grower. To keep seeds on the approved lists, further annual payments *have to be made by the* grower. The annual payments are £3,000 for the initial trial, which takes three years to complete, payable to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). Mr Simpson *reckons that it would cost him* about £1 million to get all his seeds on to the lists, with further annual payments of £2,500. However, with the help of MAFF, the Simpsons have worked out a method of selling their unusual varieties without having to pay the punitive trials rate.

People who buy from the Simpson's have to join their Tomato Growers' Club (membership is automatic with an initial order of £10 minimum) and buy newly germinated seedlings rather than seeds. This year the Simpsons sent out 4,000 by post. The club has a telephone helpline and members receive the Simpson's catalogue, which has detailed cultivation notes. It includes one passage giving their views on the pinching-out ritual: "We do not make a fetish of pinching out... Every pinch causes an open wound for diseases to enter."

The Simpsons do their own tests on disease-resistant crops; current favourites include the Simpson's hybrids 'The John Hawkins', a red beefsteak, and the '*Helen Hawkins*', a *lemon-coloured* and shaped sweetie. With a little help from friends, the Simpson's test the tomatoes for taste and, off-duty, eat them as a salad with a little olive oil and garlic, a home-grown variety called 'Elephant garlic'. "It's very special. The bulbs are the size of one of Frank Bruno's fists," says Mr Simpson, whose catalogue includes the garlic (which should be planted mid-October) and some other vegetables. Their lettuce, 'Black Seeded Simpson', last year won a merit award from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Other vegetables include pumpkins, *squashes, unusual* Chinese vegetables and eight varieties of radish (12 more are on trial by the Simpsons, and a delegation of Japanese, who are experts on radish, came to see Mr Simpson's varieties).

Mr Simpson says that some television cooks use his vegetables, and that the restaurant owner Raymond Blanc stocks his garden with their plantlets. In addition, there are about 10,000 mail-order customers.

JANE OWEN

● *For a catalogue, send a first-class stamp to: Simpson's Seeds, the Tomato Growers' Club, 27 Meadowbrook, Old Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LT. The catalogue gives details about joining the club.*

HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN TOMATOES

■ **Decide first which varieties to grow next year by tasting different ones now, or trust the recommendations contained in the Tomato Growers' Club catalogue produced by the Simpsons (see main article).**

■ **Sow seed in March on pre-watered 30mm Jiffy 7 pellets, topped with vermiculite, one seed per pellet. Germinate in a linen cupboard or beside a radiator.**

■ **Put pellets into a cold greenhouse or on windowsill at the moment of germination for about three days.**

■ **To save money and, if growing more than a dozen plants, heat the bench (not the greenhouse) with a thermostatically controlled heating mat — for example, a Heatwave panel, 50cm x 50cm over polystyrene blocks, costing from £79.90 from HotBox (01590 683788). Use 13-amp cut-out safety plug to prevent accidents.**

■ **Cover the Heatwave panel thoroughly with thick polythene and then place a capillary mat on top for watering. The Jiffys go on top.**

■ **When the plants are 3in-4in high, transfer them to a growbag or a container such as a flowerpot (9in high minimum) filled with rich compost and a little vermiculite.**

■ **If growing outdoors, the tomato plants need to be in a sunny, sheltered position, preferably against a wall.**

■ **If using a growing bag, a Hold 'n' Grow container (which can also be used as a propagator at the beginning of the season) makes staking much easier. The stakes slot into ready-made holes around the edge of the polystyrene containers. *Most garden centres stock them. If* not, you could become a member of the Tomato Growers' Club and buy one for about £7.70, a couple of pounds less than the usual shop price.**

■ **Whatever watering system is used, water the plants moderately but regularly so that the tomatoes develop a good tase and do not split. Cut down your watering as the fruit starts to ripen. You should added a proprietary tomato feed every week or so.**

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **I want to cut back hard two 6ft by 4ft beech hedges with the farm's tractor-mounted flail cutter doing one side each year. Would they stand such treatment?** — G. Purefoy, Shalstone, Buckinghamshire.

A Yes, but could you live with the hacked look? If speed is important cut back the outer hedge with the flail and then go over it with a handsaw, cutting back the side branches to a a *twiggy shoot.*

Q ***Where can I buy buy* the plant or seeds of Hamburg parsley? The root looks like a miniature parsnip and gives chicken soup a delicious flavour. *Street markets used to sell* it under the name of "patrishka".** — J. Sinclair, Brighton, Sussex.

A Hamburg parsley, *Petroselinum tuberosum*, is similar to ordinary parsley but has a fat root. It is used in the making of *bortsch* and the Polish name for it is *pietruszka*. One supplier is Plant Hunter's Nursery, Capel Ulo, Pentre Berw, Gaerwen, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL60 6LF (01248 421064. Grow as carrots.

Q **My *Hydrangea sargentiana* is no bigger now than when it was planted four years go. It is in part sun, part shade. The leaves on its 15in stem are small. Should I move it?** — S.C. Lawrence, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

A The aspect is right, but new growths are sometimes caught by late frosts. Are you growing it in clay or, worse, heavily alkaline clay? I would dig it up as soon as the leaves drop and replant it in new, open-textured soil enriched with old compost. Next year you should start to get those enormous hairy leaves and some proper growth. Look *out for rotten, stinking roots* which may be due to *nematodes* (microscopic worms) eaten into the roots. Such plants are better burnt.

Q **We want to plant the family graves with *something, but the soil is* heavy, chalky clay. We have tried thyme, heathers, and various herbaceous plants, including irises, which would not flower. Bulbs do well. What can we plant that needs little maintenance?** — Mrs E. Horne, Sevenoaks, Kent.

A You need something which is tough, perennial, and can make a colony which looks comfortable with a certain amount of weed competition, or which can suppress the weeds. Try acanthus. A colony of this dark foliage is most dignified, in sun or shade, and smothers weeds once established. It would be slow to settle on clay, but would accept it. You could plant snowdrops and spring snowflakes underneath.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

WEEKEND TIPS

Aerate compacted lawns by machine, or with a fork in smaller areas
Complete turf repairs while the ground is still warm and the grass is growing

■ *Earth-up celery, leeks and winter brassicas. Keep celery well watered. Check if early pears are ready to pick.*

■ *Dead-head late-flowering bedding plants, such as dahlias, argyranthemums and pelargoniums.*

■ *Keep ponds free of the worst leaf fall from nearby trees. Ensure that alpines and cushion plants are not smothered by the fallen leaves, and watch out for marauding slugs.*

■ *Complete clipping evergreen hedges before the serious frosts arrive. Use secateurs rather than shears on the broadleafed species.*

■ *Finish dividing herbaceous plants: complete any remaining in spring.*

Gardens to visit this weekend

NATIONAL TRUST

The Palladian chapel at Gibside, near Newcastle upon Tyne

Clapton Court, Crewkerne, Somerset (01460 73220).

Three miles south of Crewkerne on B3165. Open today, 11am-3pm. £2, under-16 free.

The combination of the garden and the hardy plants on sale promise a feast for gardeners. Surrounding the manor house are formal gardens and terraces where *Aster frikartii* enlivens borders in the rose garden. The "toad lilies", *Tricyrtis hirta* and *T. formosana*, in shades of speckled purple, are another striking autumn-flowering perennial and especially good mixing with *Lobelia tupa* and *Geranium nodosum*. A woodland garden sports banks of hydrangeas — many blue-flowered because of the acid soil — which make a magnificent sight, with white-flowered varieties, such as 'Annabel', and tall, creamy-flowered eucryphias.

Gibside, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne (01207 542255).

Entrance on B6314 between Burnopfield and Rowlands Gill. Open daily, except Mon, to end Oct, 11am-5pm. £2.90, children £1.45.

Given to the National Trust by the Bowes-Lyon family, the garden has been subject to a long-term restoration programme. First to benefit has been Gibside's jewel, the Palladian chapel and avenue of Turkey oaks that leads to it, with a towering column at the far end. Paths lead off through the flanking woodland to reveal the Gothic banqueting house (owned by the Landmark Trust and rented out), the ruined house orangery.

Clock House, Coleshill, Swindon, Wiltshire (01793 762476).

Three and a half miles southwest of Faringdon on B4019. Open tomorrow, 2-6pm. £1.50, children free.

Sir Roger Pratt's 17th-century Coleshill House, demolished after a fire in the 1950s, is evoked in the garden, its ground-plan showing rooms, doors and windows, mapped out in clipped box hedges. As well as the varied plants, including impressive foliage and a luxuriantly decorated greenhouse, a lime avenue leads to views over White Horse Vale.

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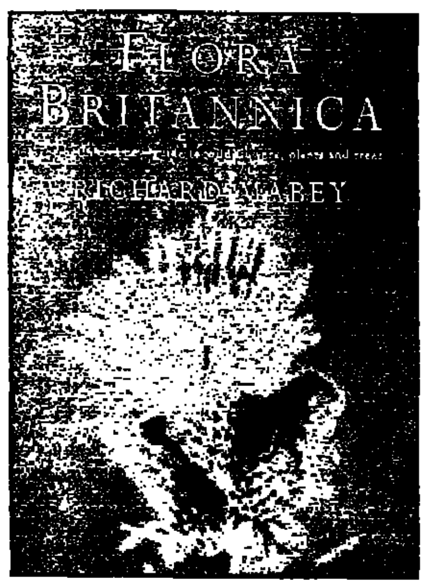

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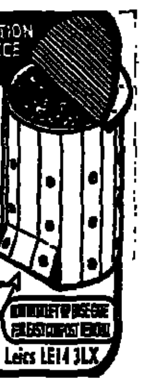

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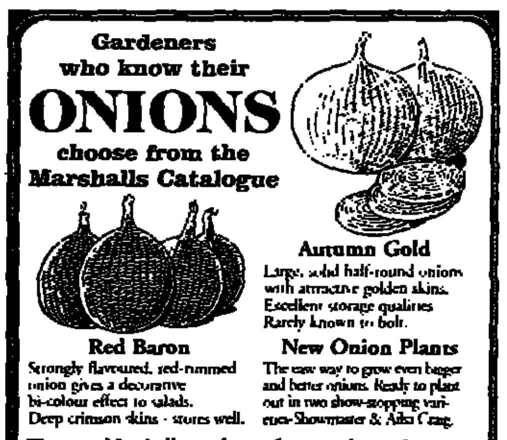

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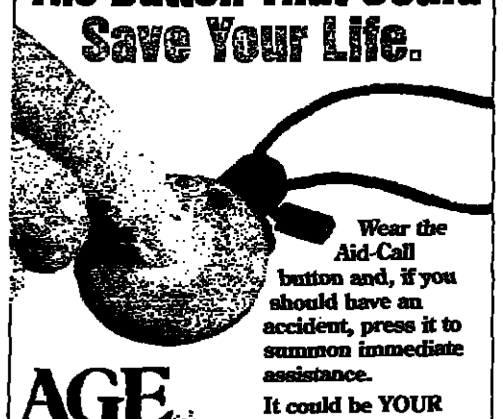

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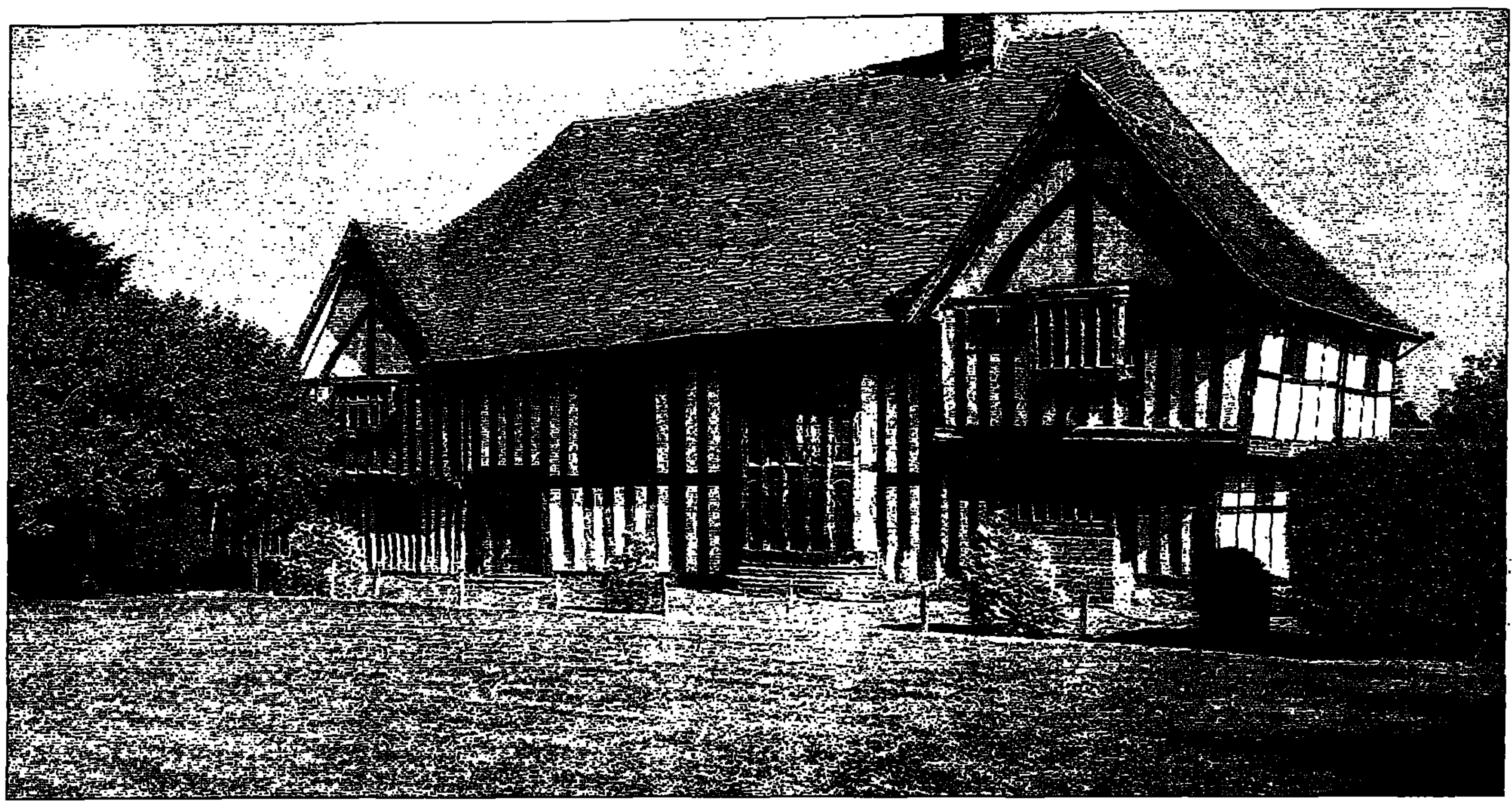

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CHERYL TAYLOR

Edna Linnell, a retired opera singer, remembers the day that she and her husband, John, first stood in the great hall of her 14th-century home and agreed to buy the property. "John just stood there and wrote out a cheque," she says. "The grand hall absolutely sold it to him."

She has lived at the Grade I listed, timber-framed manor house on the outskirts of a Kent village for 30 years. But now Duke's Place — so called because it was once owned by the Duke of Clarence, King Edward III's son — has become too big a responsibility and is for sale at £600,000.

Towards the end of the 14th century, the L-shaped property was given by the Culpepper family, who had only recently acquired it, to a charitable religious order, the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, or Knights Hospitallers, who established a community there.

> An old factory, a monastery or even the local lock-up: if it's unusual, buyers will be tempted

"I am sure the monks used one of the rooms off the great hall," Mrs Linnell says. "You can touch the silence there, it's so powerful."

The country's yearning for heritage means that more buyers are now interested in a property with a history. Many potential purchasers search long and hard to find a unique house, set apart from the ordinary. But because the house must still match the individual's many criteria — location, size, convenience for transport, schools and shops — sellers may have a frustrating wait for the one person for whom everything is right.

Mrs Linnell believes that Duke's Place, like many other properties with a history and an unusual former use, will eventually cause someone "to fall in love with it as John did".

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, the chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, believes that any property with a history will attract interest because it is set apart from the ordinary.

"It is automatically lifted out of the day-to-day properties," he says. "It is a human trait to set ourselves apart, and an unusual home can be an expression of our personality and character."

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says that potential buyers are normally concerned about the sites which unusual properties occupy and their future investment value. "If people are considering a property which has had an industrial use for conversion to a home, much will depend on its location," he says. "If it is still surrounded by an industrial landscape, it may be more appropriate for a commercial use.

"They must also be aware of all the planning considerations for change of use and the hidden cost implications of restoration or of providing essential services."

When Malcolm Kneeshaw, a builder, decided to renovate a former sawmill, complete with a water wheel which once used to drive the machinery, planners insisted that the wheel was retained after a complete restoration.

Now the 150-year-old wheel, weighing two-and-a-half tons and complete with new spindles and renewed timberwork, is visible through a glazed panel in the sitting-room floor of the converted mill at Allerston, near Pickering in North Yorkshire.

"At one time the wheel was driven by two streams, but the watercourse has been diverted and it is no longer in operation," Mr Kneeshaw says.

He believes that the charm of his property, which is for sale at £225,000, lies in its antiquity and history. "You can buy a box on an estate anywhere," he says. "This building has all its original roof trusses and it has never been lived in, so a new owner will be the first."

The conversion of a former Georgian vat house, part of an old vinegar factory in south London, into a mixture of flats and houses was an ambitious scheme on a far larger scale.

John Kerr and his family live at this development in Regent's Bridge Gardens, Vauxhall, London. The development of 91 flats and houses, was designed to create an atmosphere of community living with its own swimming pool, gym, playground and games room. Mr Kerr's two-bedroomed flat is for sale at £172,500. range from one-bedroom pied-à-terres to a few large houses.

"There is a sense of living in a historic building — the former 150-year-old winery and the building where the drays were kept are close by," says Mr Kerr, a chartered surveyor. "Most visitors say that that they cannot smell the vinegar any more — with some disappointment I think." The only reason the Kerrs want to leave the development is to get a house with a garden for their baby.

When Richard Lythe, an instrument technician, bought a former RAF transmitting station in East Yorkshire seven years ago, his plan was to live there and possibly to establish a smallholding on its two acres.

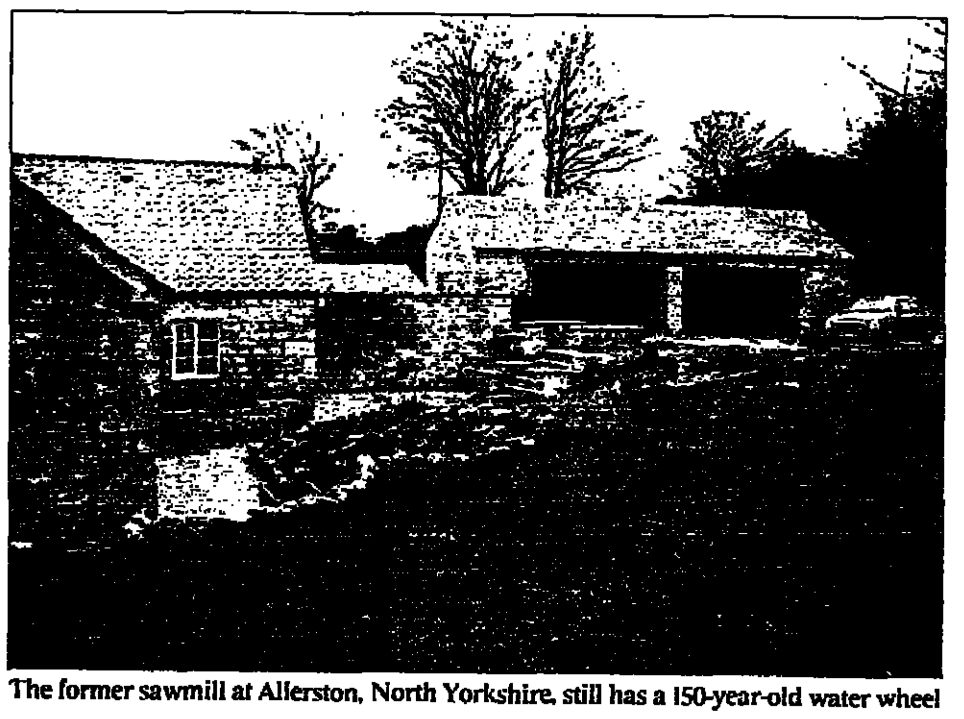
"It is totally isolated, stands 26 metres above sea level and has wonderful 180-degree views," he says. "I can see ships going down the River Humber to cross the North Sea, Withernsea lighthouse in another direction and Spurn Point, which is ten miles away, in another."

Mr Lythe and his partner Elaine Robinson, a teacher, spent months re-rendering the 30ft tower attached to the single-storey Nissen building, which would easily make a five-bedroom house, and planting a hedgerow of hawthorn, hazel, crab apple, blackthorn and wild roses inside the chain-link fence.

"The previous owner had converted part of the hut into fairly basic living accommodation and we lived there in a caravan for some time," Mr Lythe says. "Unfortunately the whole project has just become too big for us and we are having to sell."

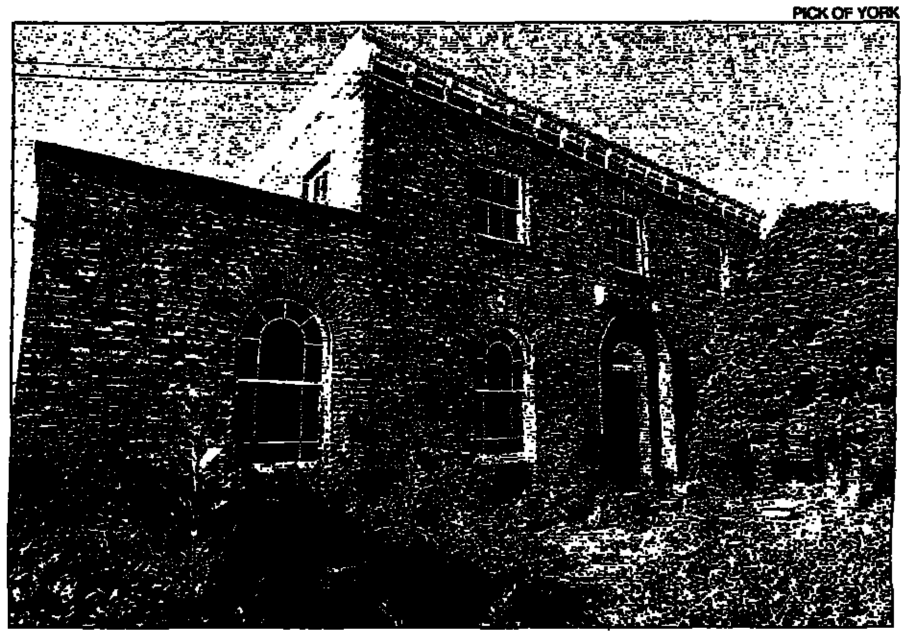
Aware of the attraction of Beacon Hill, built for use during the Cold War, to curious visitors with no real intention of buying, Mr Lythe has not advertised the property locally.

LYNNE GREENWOOD



The former sawmill at Allerston, North Yorkshire, still has a 150-year-old water wheel

POLICE STATION WITH PROSPECTS



PICK OF YORK

The former courthouse and police station at Sproatley, near Hull, is now for sale

THE FORMER courthouse and police station at Sproatley, near Hull, still boasts one of its two original cells — complete with barred window, iron bedstead and mattress.

The building belongs to the Chichester-Constable family of Burton Constable Hall, whose ancestors were obliged to bequeath land suitable for public buildings to the local council 150 years ago.

The Grade II listed property, built in 1849, was originally used as a police station and lock-up with two cells, and was the home of the local constable.

In the 1960s a single-storey building was added to be used as a magistrates' court. The previous owner, John Chichester-Constable, says: "Both my grandfather and my father sat as magistrates there. I remember my father coming home for lunch one day to say that he had remanded a taxi driver who was charged with strangling his woman passenger with a silk stocking."

Now the court is no longer in use, the building's ownership has reverted to the Chichester-Constable family who have decided to sell.

"I THINK people like the idea of a place that has a history and the one remaining cell proves that," he says. "It contains a lavatory — but the chain is outside to stop anyone harming themselves. This place has an atmosphere."

The four-bedroom modernised property has attracted a great deal of interest, both from serious buyers and from the purely inquisitive.

For further information, call 01964 562316.

FACT FILE

- For inquiries on Duke's Place, Kent, contact Strutt & Parker on 0171-629 7282.
- The Old Sawmill, Allerston, near Pickering, North Yorkshire, contact Nicholsons Estate Agents on 01723 512968.
- The Vat House flat, Regent's Bridge Gardens, London SW8, contact Halifax Property Services on 0171-928 2406.
- Beacon Hill RAF station, Welwick, East Yorkshire, contact In-The-Sticks on 01434 381404.

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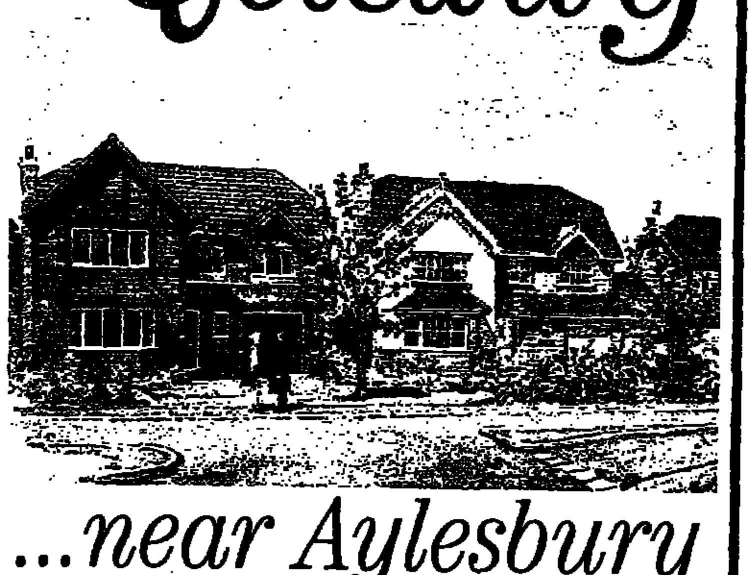

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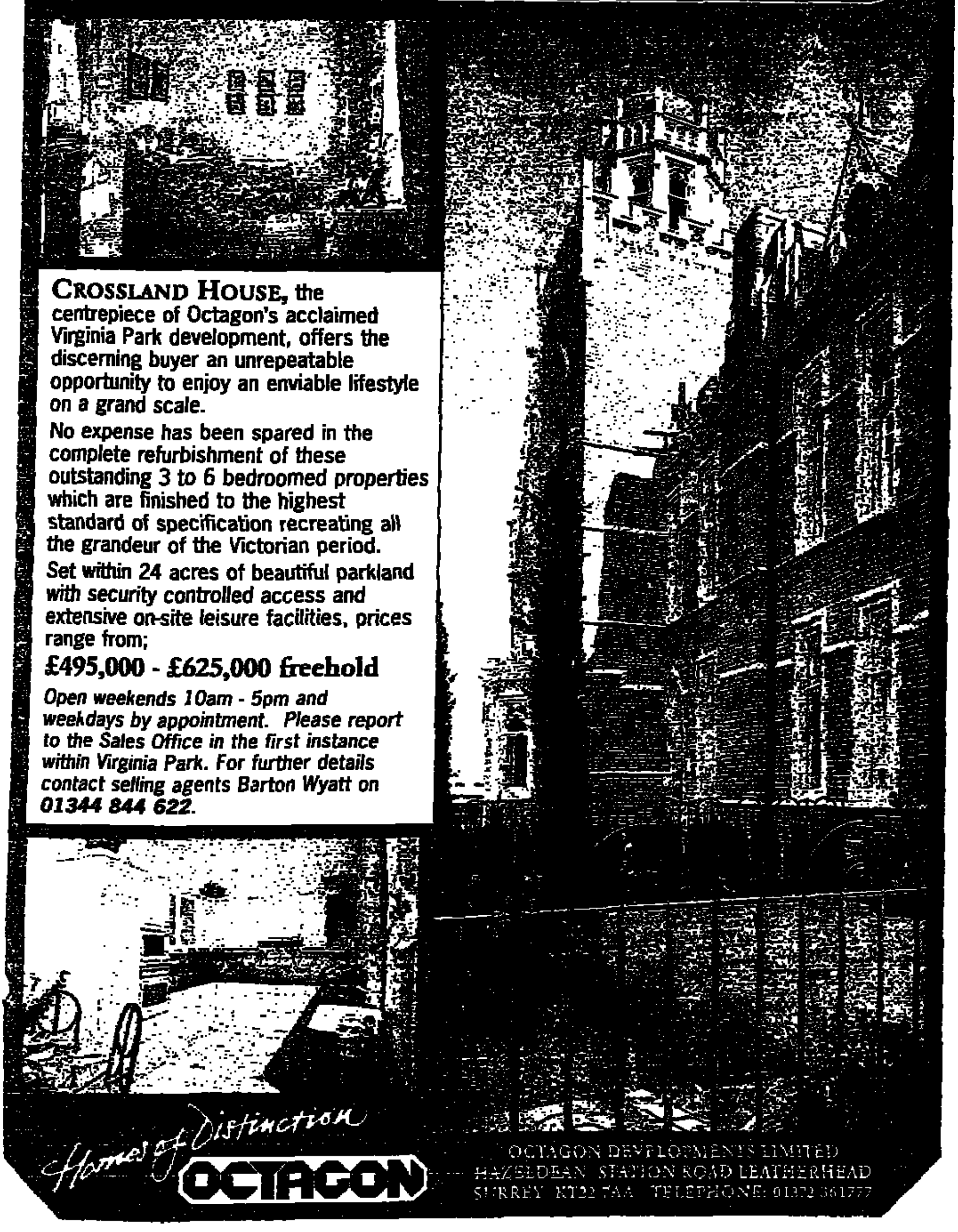

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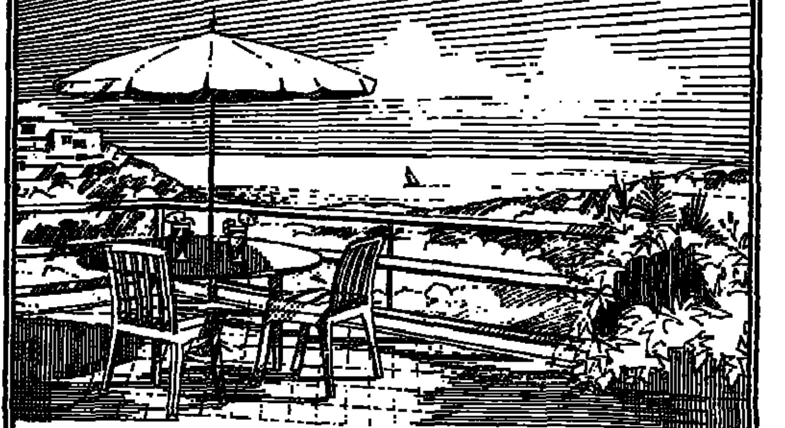

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Digs that dad bought

As demand for student accommodation outstrips supply, more parents are purchasing houses for their offspring

More and more parents are buying a home from home for their offspring to live in while at college. Besides easing their worries, it can also bring a triple benefit.

First, they solve their child's accommodation problems. These can be especially acute in cities with large student populations where there is an unseemly scramble for affordable rented homes.

Secondly, by sub-letting the other rooms in the house to their child's student friends, they can ensure that the rental return covers both the mortgage payments and the student "landlord's" living costs.

Finally, if the parents buy wisely — especially if the property is in a popular student area — they might be able to sell at a profit, often to other parents, when their child graduates. Alternatively, some parents find that their investment reaps such a healthy rental return that they retain it for income after their child has moved on.

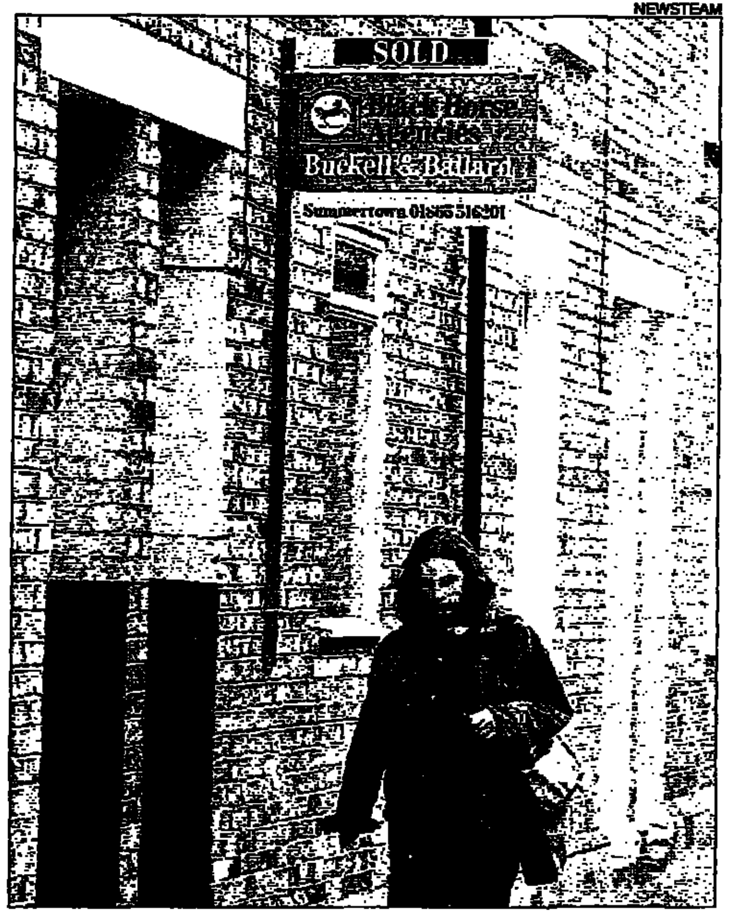
This summer, Tony Flewelling bought a house in Winchester from another student's parents for his 21-year-old daughter, Jane, who is on a four-year teacher training course at King Alfred's college.

"Jane is in the third year now, so she already has friends she can share with," Mr Flewelling says. "I was looking at putting something into a pension fund, but decided instead to buy a house and keep it for ten to 12 years as an investment. Our mortgage was nearing its end so we remortgaged our house, taking advantage of today's favourable interest rates."

This enabled Mr Flewelling to buy a three-bedroom house on a former council estate for £65,000. He converted the dining room and another downstairs room into bedrooms, giving five lettable rooms which he rents out at £42 a week each. Tenants pay half-rent during the summer break.

"The house is solidly built and in an area that students like — Jane was renting just five doors away last year," he says. "Houses there sell well. We have redecorated and replaced most carpets on the basis that if it starts off in good condition, hopefully the tenants will keep it that way. We hope another group of Jane's friends will follow after her, or we could go on to the college's accommodation list."

NEWSTEAM



In Jericho, Oxford, a two-bedroom terrace costs about £105,000

Many colleges run a head-leasing system: they lease the property from the landlord and deal directly with the student tenants, an ideal solution for parents wishing to carry on letting after their youngsters have left college.

Professor David Warner, the pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Central England in Birmingham, where 1,000 student beds are head-leased, says that a contract between landlord and university is mutually beneficial.

"We pay the landlord for a whole year, even if some rooms are not let, and in return the landlord accepts a lower rent," he says. "Many landlords prefer to deal with us than to have the bother of finding tenants. We try to impose high standards on the properties, especially safety measures such as fire doors and smoke alarms.

"It is a useful system for parents after their child has left. I think parents buying property is a viable proposition so long as they can offload it when they want to. The advantage is that you are giving your child good accommodation with the potential of it costing nothing — and the housing market may have risen by the end, when they may sell to another parent."

According to the Black Horse estate agency chain, parental buying has picked up during the past five years. "Last week alone we had five inquiries," says Frances Winstone-Partridge, the senior manager of a branch in Oxford.

"There are 15,000 students in Oxford out of a population of 135,000. While most live in halls of residence for their first year, they like to find their own accommodation after that. In popular areas such as Jericho, in north Oxford, a room in a shared house costs about £70 a week," she says.

"If a parent wanted to buy a two-bedroom terraced house in Jericho it would cost about £105,000, or £135,000 for a three-bedroom house. We find that many parents buy the house and then carry on letting because it is such a good investment. However, demand is so strong that they would have no trouble selling. There was a 5 per cent increase in prices in the first few months of this year."

But not every student can find more than £40 a week in rent — a fact that potential buyers should take into account in the price they pay for a property. Wayne Keenan, of the Oxford estate agents Andrews, has a cheaper alternative to Jericho. "There have been more parents buying this year than last, especially in east Oxford where £80,000 to £100,000 buys a three-bedroom house," he says.

Low prices and a shortage of accommodation make Nottingham a popular house-hunting ground for parents. A two-bedroom terraced house there costs £30,000, a three-bedroom £40,000 to £50,000.

"Nottingham and Nottingham Trent universities are two of the most over-subscribed in the country," says Jason Whowell, of the Black Horse agency in the city. "Rents are about £37 a week. It is expensive to get someone educated but this way parents can release equity in their own property, ensure that their child lives rent-free and still have cash left over for essential repairs."

In Newcastle, Black Horse's area director Peter Hepburn says that Jesmond is the biggest-selling area. "We sold a three-bedroom house to parents with two children for £64,000 in 1993 and they sold it two years later for £72,750," he says.

Bristol is another popular place for parent buying: parents made up 10 per cent of inquiries to the Clifton branch of Andrews this summer. The Halifax estate agency chain earmarks Manchester, Hull, Nottingham and Birmingham as popular with parents, but adds a word of warning that might prompt parents elsewhere to do some research: "A few years ago, many parents were inquiring in Sunderland but the university built a major development for students, so the demand fell off."

Some parents take the exercise a stage further and act as guarantors for their children, so that the children can qualify for a mortgage themselves. This trend was strong a couple of years ago but appears to have gone cold recently.

Earlier this month, 19-year-old James Booker from Cheltenham took charge of a three-bedroom terraced home in Exeter, where he is about to start the first year of a four-year engineering course. The house had already been singled out for him by his mother, Pauline Collingbourn-Fothergill, and his grandmother, Margot Collingbourn-Beevers.

"I thought it was sensible all round," Mrs Collingbourn-Beevers says. "Pauline and I decided to look around and we found this house, then reported back to James. He was thrilled. He had just had a gap year and earned some money that he could put in, so it was not just handed to him on a plate. It cost £49,000. My daughter and I lent him some money and I am guarantor for the mortgage.

"I hope it will be self-financing, so he will only be paying out what he would have paid on rent. He hopes that two friends will move in with him to pay rent."

"I was amazed at the sort of house you could get for the money," James says. "I have a job lined up for the holidays doing an apprenticeship as a motor engineer at a small garage, so I will be able to keep mortgage payments up in the summer. I am really looking forward to living there."

CHRISTINE WEBB

ADRIAN BROOKS

Student Jane Flewelling with her father, Tony, prepares to move into the house he bought for her

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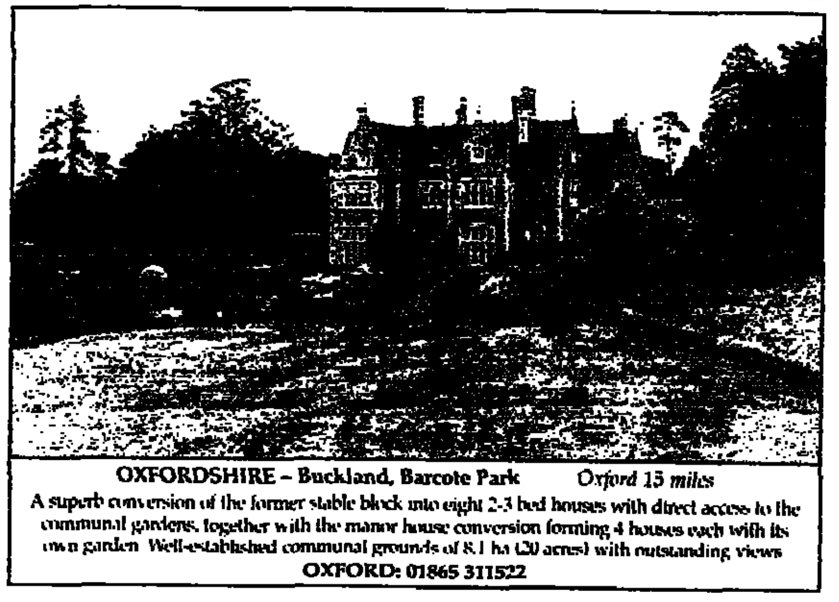

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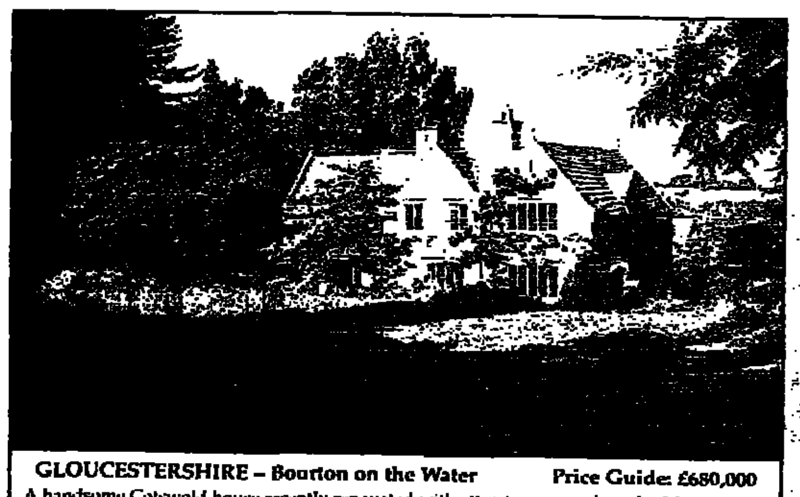

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Bourton on the Water Price Guide: £680,000
A handsome Cotswold house recently renovated with attractive grounds and a 3 bedroomed cottage. 7 beds, dressing rm, 4 baths, 2 clkrms, 5 receps, kit, utility rm, outside cellar, cottage, stables, garaging, outbuildings, formal gardens, arboretum, paddocks. About 8.5 ha (21 acres).
CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

WILTSHIRE
Wootton Rivers
With potential for improvement and extension, a charming, well-maintained lock-keeper's cottage on the edge of this attractive village beside the Kennet and Avon Canal. 3 beds, bath, 2 receps, kitchen, workshop, garden.
Price Guide: £135,000
NEWBURY: 01635 523225

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Here come the great pretenders

Fake flowers have finally come of age — and don't they look wonderful?

PHOTOGRAPHS: DES JENSON

This magnificent bunch of everlasting roses costs £175 from Martin Robinson

My father, arriving at my bloom-bedecked flat when I was an impoverished student, recalled a story he had heard about Nancy Mitford. Apparently she claimed her independence and moved into her own flat, only to return home after a few months having spent her year's allowance on cut flowers.

I have since (partially) controlled my floral shopoholia thanks to "everlasting" flowers, although it took me a long time to come round to them, being of the generation that remembered the plastic daffs that came free with washing powder.

Fakes have since become so sophisticated that they can fool the sniffy from a distance — and modern techniques have enabled florists to preserve flowers without drying them, so they look fresh. Use them throughout the year or bring them out to brighten up the winter.

Charlotte Hepworth's hand-painted wax flowers are similarly exotic. She has revived this Victorian art to stunning effect, cutting from paper, painting and then waxing each individual petal of her exquisite life-size flowers. The delicate arrangements in her mail-order list include tiny pots of wild strawberries (£33), winter jasmine, catkins and *snowdrops (£70) and dramatic* orange and lemon trees (£160). Nina Campbell stocks a range of her potted arrangements, *including violets* (13cm high, £55), *auricula* (30cm high, £85), hyacinths (28cm high, £85) and white orchids (50cm high, £130).

Charlotte Hepworth's violets in china pot: £55 from Nina Campbell

The Good Living Company sells silken and parchment flowers by mail and manages to offer superb quality at bargain prices. They have ready-chosen arrangements which you can replicate at home and a selection of flowers which can be purchased individually. The dramatic Blue Arrangement (about 3ft tall, 2ft wide, £67.20 plus p&p) contains flagrantly fake frosted peonies, poppies, roses, sunflowers, dogwood, freesias and more, while the cottagey Bedroom Arrangement (18in high, 18in wide, £32.07 plus p&p), consists of realistic country, romantic, garden and dog roses, hydrangea and Queen Anne's Lace in summer shades.

For stark simplicity, order stems of white lily (£3.50) — or make a riotous arrangement of Hedgerow (£3.95) and Fruit Foliage (£3.55).

Make sure you're on the mailing list by September, so you can see the magnificent arrangement of poppies, laurel (with berries) and wild roses that is about to be released — this is so spectacular that a friend who went with me to check out the flowers ordered her Autumn Arrangement on the spot without knowing the price!

We agreed that, although well photographed, the brochure does not do justice to the flowers.

Another good source of silken flowers from an azalea tree (38in high, £69) to flowerpots brimming with *miniature* pansies (10in high, £14.95) is Georges d'Epinois's shop in Fulham, London. I was very taken with a glorious trough of *anemones and ornamental* cabbages (2ft long, £44.99), and also liked yellow irises arranged with oriental sim*plicity in a verdigris pot (16in high, £44.99)*, white peonies in a blue-and-white bowl (2ft high, £69.99), rustic baskets of multi-coloured sweet peas (12in high, £17.50) and vibrant ranunculus in toleware pots (17in high, £24.99). Next time I have a vase to fill, though, I will be calling in Helen Hardy of Semper Floreat, who creates peerlessly naturalistic arrangements of silken and parchment flowers to order.

She specialises in luxuriant displays which mix wild and cultivated blooms with foliage, berries and even "branches", and her prices are very competitive.

Foxgloves and delphiniums, wild cornflowers, hop sprays and roses just on the point of dropping their first petal. Her arrangements are those you would create yourself if you had a perpetually blooming country garden and enormous flair. Order a list of blooms and choose at home, or, better still, make an appointment to view her fab flowers and pick your own arrangement or artfully artless tied bunch.

Some of the smartest preserved flowers around come from Martin Robinson's Walton Street bower, where you will find breathtakingly elegant hand-decoupaged trunks, pots and boxes full of single-colour roseheads that look like the real thing, but will last several years.

There is also a selection of natural-looking arrangements of summer garden flowers, and coolly contemporary wonders performed with pods, gourds, dried chillis and the like.

Fast Flowers specialises in imaginative, innovative and surprisingly reasonable arrangements of preserved and *dried flowers. Do not miss their aged urns piled with* freeze-dried strawberries (these are exclusive to Fast Flowers and look remarkably *fresh*), orange *slices*, rose heads and celosia (17in tall, £75).

Rustic arrangements include larkspur in a terracotta pot (13in high, 14in diameter, £35), a rough wheel-shaped twig basket piled with South African hill flowers in green and shades of purple (12in tall, *up to 19in diameter*, £35).

Their only *non-natural* arrangement consists of "clementines" arranged with "laurel *leaves*" in a terracotta flowerpot (£25) — they may be plastic, but they are so convincing that I have reserved a couple for my Christmas table.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

From left: Charlotte Hepworth's hyacinth, £85, from Nina Campbell. Auricula in terracotta pot by Charlotte Hepworth, £85, from Nina Campbell. Dried Larkspur in encrusted terracotta pot, £35, from Fast Flowers. Orange slice and strawberries from Fast Flowers, £75. *Azalea bush* in basket, £69, Georges D'Epinois

- ● *Nina Campbell, 9 Walton Street, SW3 (0171-225 1011).*
- ● *Georges d'Epinois, 793 Fulham Road, SW6 (0171-736 2387).*
- ● *Fast Flowers, 0171-381 6422.*
- ● *The Good Living Company, 01275 374632.*
- ● *Charlotte Hepworth, 01o75 442357 for mail order list.*
- ● *Martin Robinson: Walton Street, SW3 (0171-581 3702).*
- ● *Semper Floreat, 0171-622 4594/720 5780.*

Simple good scents all round

One of the most elegant shops in Walton Street — arguably London's smartest shopping parade — is that of Jo Malone, a fragrant paradise of colognes, skincare products and treats. Just walking in makes one feel like a 1930s film star swanning into Elizabeth Arden.

Products are packaged with simple chic in beautiful glass or practical plastic bottles with cream and black labels. Boxes are also cream and black, with black ribbon. Malone's 13 colognes (£28 for 100ml) smell wonderfully clean and fresh.

Many people change their scent according to the time of day, the season, their mood or where they are going, and these colognes bring just such a variety of occasions to mind: Red Roses in floaty summer mood; Wild Muguet for spring; French Lime Blossom or Vetyver for a country walk; Amber and Lavender for crisp autumn days; Gardenia or Tuberose for creating an intoxicating cloud of romance.

They are light and, in the main, not gender specific, although a member wearing Tuberose or Gardenia to the Garrick Club might cause raised eyebrows.

There are also bath products in all fragrances — the Grapefruit shower gel (100mls, £8.95)

anyone to emerge feeling other than slinky from a bath scented by Nutmeg & Ginger (100ml plastic travel bottle £12.95). Use the mail order Sent a Scent service to send fragrances to friends.

The Travelling Cologne Pack (£145), a leather case with three glass decanters which can be filled from a choice of nine fragrances would make a superb present for the frequent traveller in your life. Similarly, anyone who enjoys weekends away will be grateful for the Bath Oil Collection (£49.95), a luxurious box of 12 bottles, each containing three baths worth of a fragrance.

SHOP OF THE WEEK

For glamorous presentation you can get plain, square refillable glass decanters (200mls, £49 empty) or rounded versions decorated with gold leaf filigree (950mls, £89 empty). Also look at almost-edible pot pourri (from £49.50), Tortoiseshell trinket boxes (from £16.50) and scen-

know swear by Malone's skincare range, based on natural ingredients, and rely on the expert advice of her staff. Their Protein Skin Serum (£29.95) is an international bestseller, with every new consignment winging its way out of the door almost as soon as it arrives.

Used in tiny amounts, it adds to the skin's absorbency and increases the efficiency of moisturisers, gradually plumping out the skin. I have been using it religiously around my eyes and have noticed a definite reduction in fine lines. I have also been converted to a regime using her Essential Massage Kit. After three weeks friends are starting to comment on my radiant complexion.

S.L.

● *Jo Malone: 154 Walton Street, SW3 2JL (0171-581 1101). For a product list or details of Sent a Scent call 0171-720 0202.*

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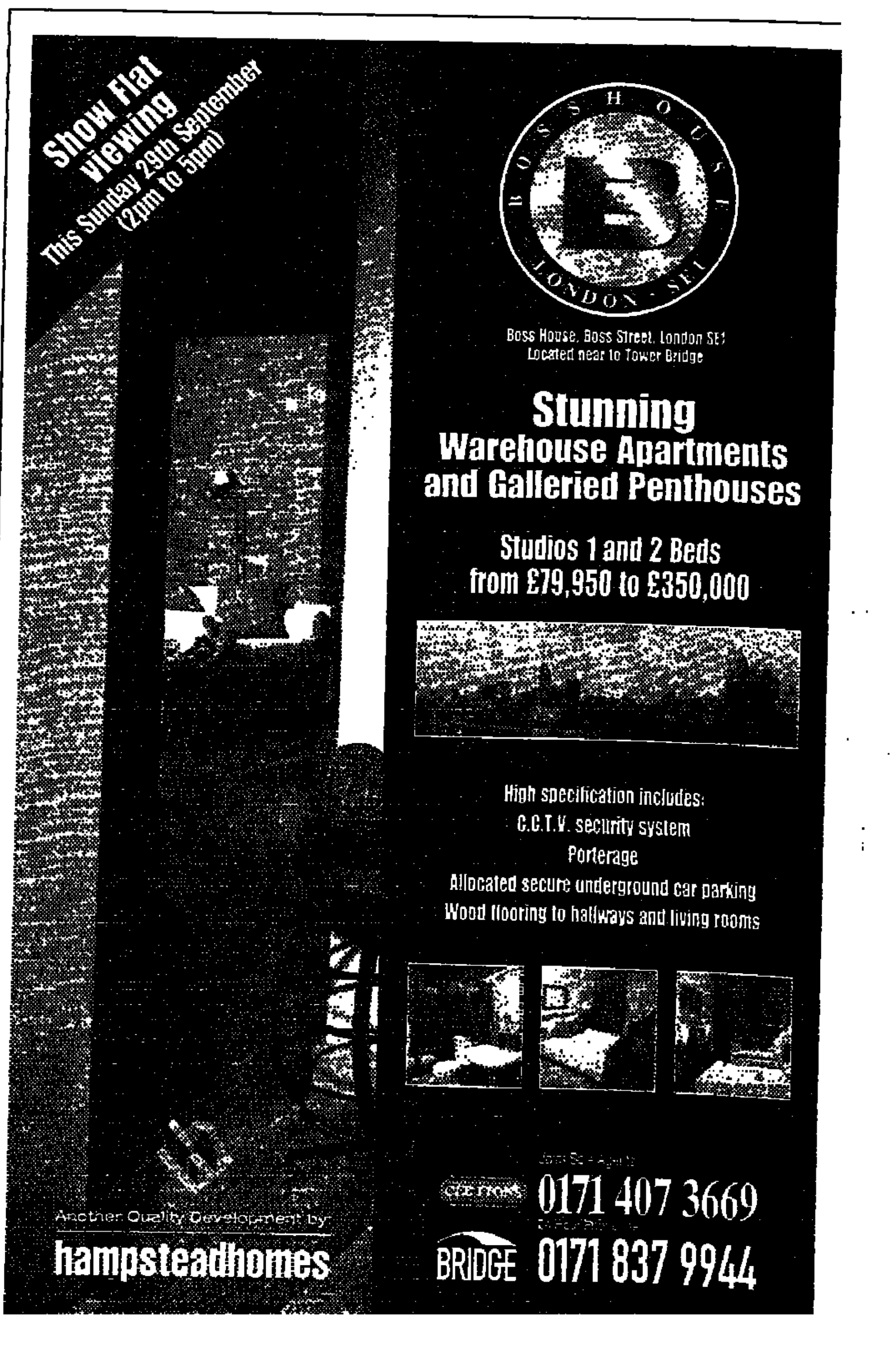

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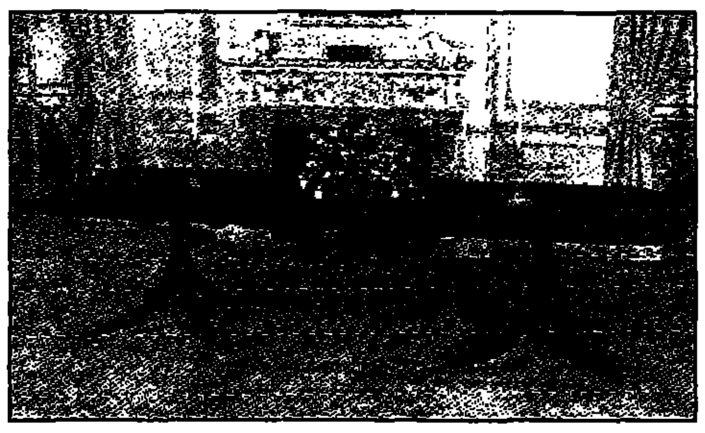

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Rising Gold Price on World Markets triggers release of Victorian antique gold bullion...

By Joanne Glover

SPOT gold now having climbed above the all important level of $400 an ounce, and that rise being exaggerated by the recent strength of the U.S. dollar, now could be the ideal time to tuck away some of these original antique 22 carat British Victorian Shield gold sovereigns. A small group of these gems from the earliest years of Victoria's reign have recently been released for distribution by a Swiss bank in Zurich.

Less than 400 of these spectacular condition original gold sovereigns have been released for distribution in Great Britain. The coins date from the 1840's to the early 1880's and are of the sought after Shield Design, showing the young head of Queen Victoria. Bearing in mind these genuine British gold coins are getting on for nearly 150 years old and weighing just over a quarter of an ounce of 22 carat gold, these will be a big hit with collectors and gold fans alike.

When you consider what some leading coin retailers charge for a run-of-the-mill sovereign, up to £135, and the fact that the Royal Mint charges £149 for a modern new-issue gold sovereign, these represent outstanding value at only £109.50 each, including P&P. Genuine British gold coins that are nearly a century and a half old will be cherished forever by collectors, investors and antique lovers everywhere.

I've applied for three myself, and requested three different dates. I, for one, don't want to miss out on this golden opportunity.

You should try your luck too, who knows? You could well be one of the lucky ones who is included in this distribution. You can apply by post stating the number you would like, along with your name and address including postcode to The Gold and Silver Bureau, 3 Sevenways, Ilford, Essex, IG2-6XH. If you are lucky enough to be allocated any, it will have been well worth the effort. After all, very few people even get to see an original early Victorian sovereign, let alone be able to own one.

If you want to apply over the 'phone and don't mind a few engaged tones, call them on Freephone (0800) 614686, even on a Sunday, you may find out right away whether you will be successful in obtaining any. Don't send any payment initially, you will be notified if you are one of the lucky ones whose application has succeeded.

With the gold market looking like it is rising and some major currencies getting weaker against the dollar, authentic antique gold from the Victorian era will make a nice addition to the family's golden nest-egg. Most folks, myself included, like the feel of real gold coins from a time when money looked and felt like money should.

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The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Seminal reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love **The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course**. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love **Alice's Diary** which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

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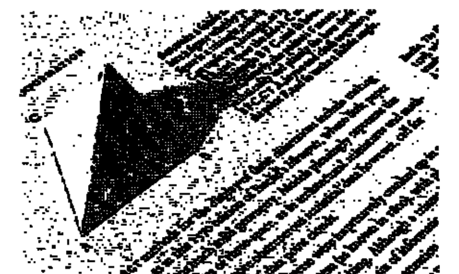

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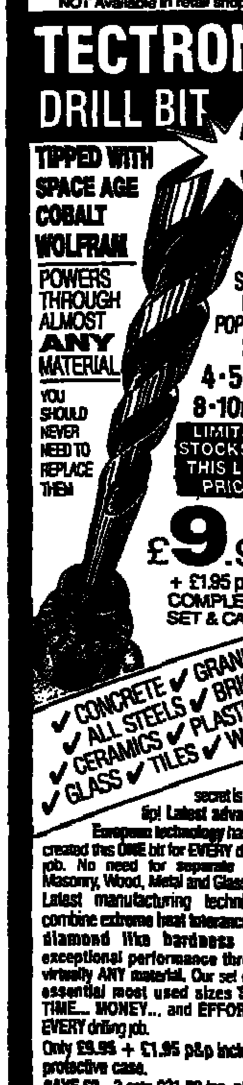

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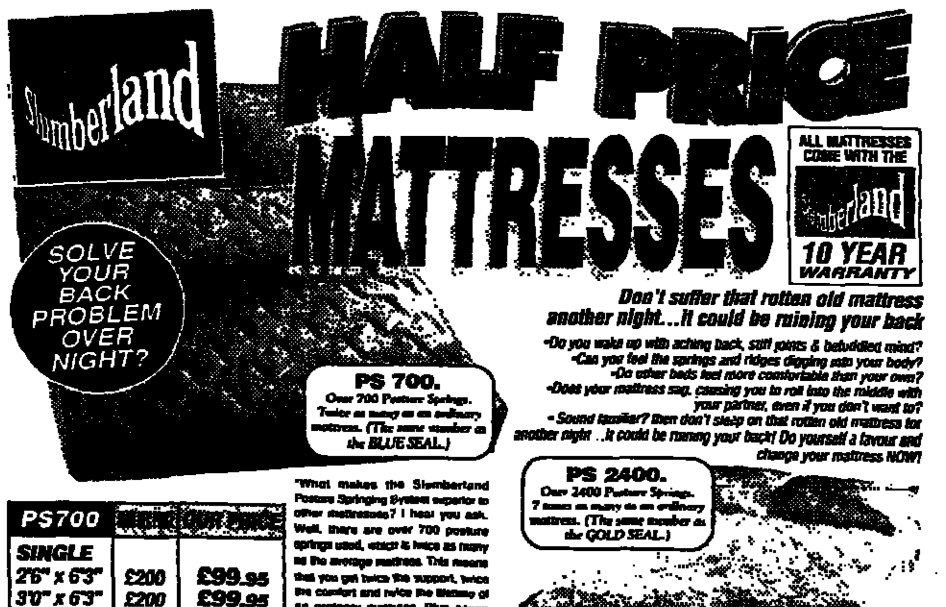
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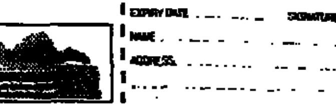

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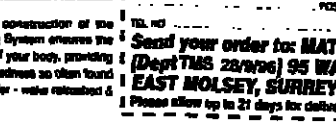

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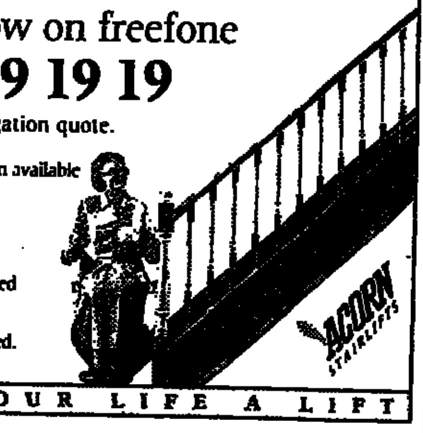

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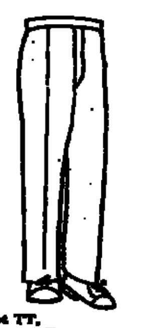

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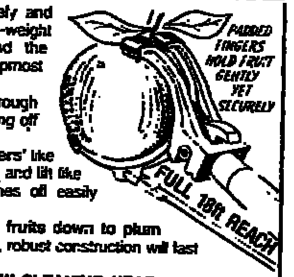
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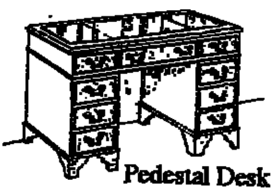

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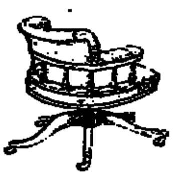

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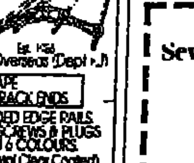

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Parallel lives meet before infinity

Mary Loudon is gripped — eventually — by a complex and intriguing novel that explores bold ideas about the nature of life, death, ghosts and coexisting worlds

THERE are times when a reviewer persists with a novel only because he or she is being paid to do so. This week was one of those times. But this week was also one of those rare times when persistence and patience brought pleasing and unexpected reward.

The Uncertainty Principle is not a novel in which it is easy to become quickly absorbed. This is mostly because of its fractured style: time and place zigzag confusingly across one another and speech is indicated by hyphens, not speech marks, which makes it even more difficult to follow who is talking to whom, and when and where. Even when you get used to it, this latter stylistic tic remains the novel's major weakness. However, as the highly unpredictable plot unravels, a narrative far more complex and captivating than that suggested early on is revealed.

Helen and her husband, Benny, are mourning the death of their daughter, Laura, who was killed nine years earlier by a hit-and-run driver. Benny, a famous and popular scientist, disappears to Los Angeles, where he constructs another life for himself, a life unknown to Helen. Helen remains in England with their son, Tim, until Benny decides to return, pick up where he left off, and kill himself.

■ THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE
By Ruth Brandon
Jonathan Cape, £15.99
ISBN 0 244 04454 0

Benny believes in parallel universes. He believes that ghosts, coincidences and prophetic dreams are tantalising glimpses of other, coexisting worlds. Helen is sceptical — until she sees their daughter in the flesh across a crowded American shopping mall. Her subsequent search for Laura, and for the Benny who went missing, both physically and metaphorically, after Laura's death, takes her on an unexpected and mind-blowingly complicated journey into both their pasts. Revelation and re-evaluation is the name of the game, as the once-solid background to Helen's life dissolves, throwing the characters in the foreground into sharper relief. As Helen herself observes, perspective is only ever a matter of context, and context is dependent not just on what you can see but on what you cannot.

The Uncertainty Principle has its problems but it is a fascinating novel. Ruth Brandon is not afraid of either the experimental or the esoteric, and she has managed to combine serious scientific inquiry with a gripping story. Her writing is interesting and refreshing because it is genuinely thoughtful, and her intellectual concerns are broad and unusual. If her prose lacks a little panache, it is no matter. Her ideas, and her readiness to explore them in the difficult realm of fiction, are more than adequate compensation.

John Naughton on a career only a step away from the oldest profession

Bring on the dancing girls

■ SHOWGIRLS
By Andrea Stuart
Jonathan Cape, £18.99
ISBN 0 224 03615 7

The queen of Paris: Josephine Baker in *Paris Qui Remue* at the Casino de Paris, 1930

EARLIER this year, I watched several hundred men and women exploring the World Wide Web for the first time. After being given a brief introduction to the Internet, each was directed to one of the "search engines" which index the Web and told to explore this brave new world of online information. An astonishing proportion of the men then immediately typed the same two words: "Pamela Anderson".

I should perhaps explain that Ms Anderson is the heroine of *Baywatch*, in which she appears wearing a swimsuit several sizes too small for her. My observations of Internet novices confirmed what I ought to have known anyway — that this overstuffed dame has become a sexual icon for millions of contemporary males. Her Web pages receive hundreds of thousands of "hits" every day.

If this had been 1925, my novices would have typed the words "Josephine Baker", the name of the black American showgirl who took Paris by storm when she appeared on stage wearing only bright pink feathers. The audience, crazed by her exotic, athletic sexiness (she was the female equivalent of a Bugatti, someone said), went bananas. Some fled the theatre, while others stormed the stage, screaming, clapping and trembling on the brink of orgasm. Pamela Anderson has had many proposals of marriage on and offline, but I doubt that she has received the 40,000 propositions made to Baker in her heyday.

Andrea Stuart's book is that unlikely thing, a scholarly book about a topic that most regard as a music-hall joke. She has written a natural history of the showgirl phenomenon, surveying its origins, growth and decline over the course of a century through a series of intriguing essays on the, er, seminal figures in the story — Mistinguett, Colette, Josephine Baker, Barbette, Marlene Dietrich and Mae West.

Their stories share an underlying theme, namely that successful showgirls were pragmatists who never lost sight of the fact that they were essentially marketing one thing — sex. Most were born with few advantages beyond their physique, and they were determined to make the most of it. The best may have lived impossibly glamorous lives, and been worshipped by thousands of slavering males, but in the end the line between the stage and the brothel remained exceedingly fine. As Mae West famously said: "I used to be Snow White — but I drifted!"

Cynic with a design for killing

■ *GETTING RID OF MISTER KITCHEN*
By Charles Higson
Little Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 88106 6

Higson: Amis as slapstick

ARROGANT, cynical, self-absorbed, reactionary, bullying murderers are not the usual hero type, but then Charles *Higson's (unnamed) narrator* is not out to win any sympathy, or so he says. He just comes around the corner in his big black car and runs you down. Allowances should be made, however: his day has started badly with a sunny, cloudless sky. Things can only get worse and they do — much worse.

This is black farce with bells on, or Martin Amis as slapstick: the protagonist, a prosperous designer in his mid-thirties who is set to become a household name, brings to mind an older, although not wiser, Gregory Riding from *Success* on drugs — lots of drugs — and lots of drink. All the disgust, yet none of the self-doubt.

The contempt he feels for more or less everything is explained — rather than justified — with shopsoiled reasoning while lecturing his teenage cousin or a cabbie, visiting his dapper, philosophical drug dealer or during a fight. Lurching about in dead-man's shoes, he gets round to most of the *important* issues: class, virtue, the environment, evolution, birth and death, heaven and hell, the weather. The ground is covered at breakneck pace: Higson makes his points neatly without compromising any of his sardonic edge.

At £15 for 200 pages, *Mister Kitchen's* brevity — barely a single plane journey or a short evening's entertainment — is one of its very few faults: a glaring hole in the plot and a somewhat weak ending are the others. Nevertheless, it is very funny and utterly unstoppable.

Higson works in television comedy and it is easy to imagine that, when he wrote this book, the author was thinking in terms of television, where he could make a real killing.

GORDON CHILVERS

Mother Goose — what every parent needs to know

Rhymes and their reasons

CHILDREN

WE PARENTS are so clueless nowadays that we actually need Iona Opie, the female half of the couple who edited the seminal *Lore and Language of Schoolchildren*, to explain in her charming introduction to **My Very First Mother Goose** (Walker, £14.99, ISBN 0 7445 4400 9) what nursery rhymes are for. I am taking her advice and quoting "Davy Davy Dumpling, boil him in a pot, sugar him and butter him, and eat him while he's hot" at my toddler when he is in a tantrum. He hates it, but it makes me feel better. Rosemary Wells is the illustrator whose satisfying Sendak-like work has been teamed with Opie's magical selection — some are rhymes you have never heard, yet which will become part of your life.

For over-fives, the most attractive poetry anthology in months is Alice Taylor's **A Child's Book of Irish Rhymes** (Barefoot, £9.99, ISBN 1 898000 33 6), all simply dressed, imaginative poems of childhood, and easy for a child of eight upwards to memorise.

Some fine new editions of "classics" are around now but beware: the words "a retelling" on the cover generally mean "hasty and cynical rehash of something out of copyright". Berlie Doherty's "adaptation" of Juliana Horatia Ewing's **Our Field** (Collins, £8.99, ISBN 0 00 185510 7) is *not* one of these — rather, it is a sensitive, finely illustrated abridgement of a long-lost Victorian story.

Susan Saelig Gallagher has created a strong new vision of Oscar Wilde's **The Selfish Giant** (Macdonald Young Books, £9.99, ISBN 0 7500 2127 6) with her sculptural, suggestive paintings. The gifted Austrian artist Lisbeth Zwerger admits she has never seen the whole of the MGM movie of L. Frank Baum's **The Wizard of Oz** (North-South, £14.99, ISBN 1 55858 638 5). Consequently her elegant, surreal paintings for this edition look straight at Baum's words, as they should. Like the young readers (nine and upwards) who will treasure this book, Zwerger brings no cultural baggage to the text. A pair of green-tinted glasses is supplied with each copy as Zwerger found painting the Emerald City intimidating.

Margaret Atwood's **Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut** (Barefoot Books, £8.99, ISBN 1 898000 65 4) is a parlour game — nearly every word begins with or features the letter P, which makes the story preposterous, prim yet pleasing — possibly pupils of eight-plus will be inspired to put pen to paper.

SARAH JOHNSON

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Murder on the old in New England

■ MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU
By Mary Higgins Clark
Simon & Schuster, £15.99
ISBN 0 684 81750 0

WHEN, at a Manhattan party, photographer Maggie Holloway runs into her long-lost stepmother, Nuala, she is delighted at the prospect of becoming reacquainted with someone to whom she was once close. Her pleasure is short-lived, however — on arrival for a weekend at Nuala's house, she finds her stepmother dead — apparently the victim of a random attack.

There are worrying inconsistencies to this theory, and Maggie decides to investigate the crime herself. Who could have wanted Nuala dead — and is her death linked to the unexplained deaths of several of her friends? Set in the affluent world of New England's resorts and retirement homes, Mary Higgins Clark's well-crafted thriller maintains the suspense without faltering, and offers some enjoyably chilling moments.

■ RANGE OF MOTION
By Elizabeth Berg
Black Swan, £6.99
ISBN 0 552 99716 1

Berg: coping with loss

THE situation central to Elizabeth Berg's book, in which a man lies in a coma after being struck on the head by an icicle, seems improbable at first — until you realise that unforeseen disaster often has this slightly fantastical quality. In any case, Berg's main concern is not with Jay, the unfortunate victim of Fate's cruel trick, but with Lainey, his wife, who has to deal with its effect on her family life and on her own state of mind.

In the intervals between visiting Jay in hospital, Lainey finds consolation in her friendship with Alice, her apparently unflappable next-door neighbour, and in a new relationship with a man she meets at the hospital. Berg offers a sympathetic portrayal of the loneliness of coping with this kind of bereavement, counterpointing the sombreness of her narrative with the optimism of its closing pages.

■ FAMILY OUTING
By Alison Habens
Secker & Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 20206 9

GRACE BLOOM'S parents, Garth and Gaynor, are psychotherapists, about to publish a definitive study of the family — as well they might, given the oddity of their own. For while Grace bestows her sexual favours on Nigel and Simeon and Dave — and occasionally Kelly, when she feels like a change from men — her true affections lie with Eugene, her brother.

Eugene's love life is less complicated — but only because he is keener on sleeping with Grace than pursuing other women. The perversity of Alison Habens's scenario might seem contrived — if not actually tasteless — were it not for the deadpan humour of her narrative. Refusing to condemn her incestuous pair, she reserves her satire for their monstrous parents, and for moral relativists in general.

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The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACKS

		No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	EVENING CLASS **Maeve Binchy** *(Orion, £16.99)*	0	0	2,159
2	TO THE HILT **Dick Francis** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	2	1	1,297
3	LONGITUDE **Dava Sobel** *(Fourth Estate, £12)*	5	3	1,064
4	ICON **Frederick Forsyth** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	2	3	907
5	VIRGINIA WOOLF **Hermione Lee** *(Chatto, £20)*	0	0	845
6	ANTONIO CARLUCCIO'S ITALIAN FEAST **Antonio Carluccio** *(BBC, £16.99)*	0	0	821
7	DESPERATION **Stephen King** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	3	5	731
8	ALIAS GRACE **Margaret Atwood** *(Bloomsbury, £16.99)*	0	0	677
9	WAR WALKS: FROM AGINCOURT TO NORMANDY **Richard Holmes** *(BBC, £16.99)*	9	17	587
10	THE STORY OF BRITAIN **Roy Strong** *(Julia Macrae/Hutchinson, £35)*	0	0	559
11	THE BRANDED MAN **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	2	4	536
12	ENEMY OF GOD **Bernard Cornwell** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	2	6	520
13	MY NAME ESCAPES ME **Alec Guinness** *(Hamish Hamilton, £16)*	0	0	440
14	POPCORN **Ben Elton** *(Simon & Schuster, £12.99)*	9	18	389
15	ROBERT RUNCIE: THE RELUCTANT ARCHBISHOP **Humphrey Carpenter** *(Hodder, £20)*	0	0	384
16	THE TOMB OF GOD **Richard Andrews** *(Little, Brown, £20)*	4	12	342
17	PRACTICAL COOKERY **Victor Ceserani** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	2	9	341
18	GREAT GRAMMAR BOOK **Jennie Maizels** *(Riverswift, £12.99)*	1	16	338
19	THE BEANO BOOK: 1997 *(D. C. Thomson, £4.99)*	5	10	311
20	DALGLISH: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY **Kenny Dalglish** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	0	0	303

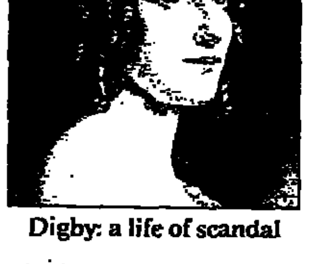
PAPERBACKS

		No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND **Bill Bryson** *(Black Swan, £6.99)*	8	1	2,630
2	WHIT **Iain Banks** *(Abacus, £6.99)*	1	6	1,902
3	WINTER KING **Bernard Cornwell** *(Penguin, £5.99)*	2	3	1,799
4	THE HORSE WHISPERER **Nicholas Evans** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	17	7	1,763
5	THE OBSESSION **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	2	4	1,635
6	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Indigo, £5.99)*	25	10	1,629
7	THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE **Marie-Thérèse Bougard** *(BBC, £10.99)*	0	0	1,593
8	GREEN MILE 6: COFFEY ON THE MILE **Stephen King** *(Penguin, £1.99)*	3	2	1,465
9	SOCIOLOGY: THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES **Michael Haralambos** *(CollinsEducational, £16.75)*	1	16	1,340
10	THE HIGHWAY CODE **Dept. of Transport** *(HMSO, £0.99)*	10	5	1,199
11	ESPANA VIVA **Derek Utley** *(BBC, £8.99)*	0	0	1,118
12	PSYCHOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF MIND AND BEHAVIOUR **Richard D. Gross** *(Hodder, £17.99)*	0	0	1,076
13	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam, £7.99)*	41	0	933
14	DEUTSCH PLUS **Reinhard Tenberg** *(BBC, £12.99)*	0	0	924
15	LABRADOR FIASCO **Margaret Atwood** *(Bloomsbury, £1)*	0	0	909
16	FACON DE PARLER: PART 1 **Angela Aries** *(Headway)*	0	0	893
17	THE GHOST ROAD **Pat Barker** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	12	14	869
18	COLLINS GEM GERMAN DICTIONARY *(HarperCollins, £3.99)*	2	13	860
19	HOPE **Len Deighton** *(HarperCollins, £5.99)*	1	8	857
20	POETRY PLEASE! *(Everyman, £1)*	0	0	851

This Times *list monitored 40,654 titles representing high-street sales of £5.6 million during the week.*

SUPPLIED BY WHITAKER BOOKTRACK (01420 545420)

True life studies


Digby: a life of scandal

WHOSE lives do we really want to know about? The chart below, *Derwent May writes*, gives the ten bestsellers that BookTrack has recorded, over the latest 12-week period, in the 600 bookshops that it monitors. They are listed in order of the number of copies they sold, and we also give the amount of money each has grossed in sales (the authors themselves normally get 7.5 to 10 per cent of that).

Margaret Forster's story of the contrasting lives of her grandmother, her mother and herself is easily at the top of the list, with another family history of three generations of women — Jung Chang's *Wild Swans* — next. After that it is mainly popular biographies — heroes of the cricket field, a murderer, a pop group, and the "scandalous life" of a 19th-century woman traveller, Jane Digby, whose last husband was a Bedouin sheikh.

However, Hitler's architect, Albert Speer, evidently continues to fascinate readers, and Lytton Strachey's essay on Florence Nightingale makes an odd appearance as a Penguin Sixty at No 10. Nurses queuing up for it?

In the next ten, the count of serious biographies is higher, with Sebastian Faulks's study of three *Fatal Englishmen* at No 14, John Keane's book on Tom Paine at No 15, and Tom Bower's book on *The Perfect English Spy* — Sir Dick White — at No 20. That's better.

BIOGRAPHY

	Value of sales in the 12 weeks to September 7
1 HIDDEN LIVES **Margaret Forster** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	£82,982
2 WILD SWANS **Jung Chang** *(Flamingo, £7.99)*	£42,757
3 FREE AS A BIRD **David Hopps** *(Robson, £14.95)*	£40,281
4 DICKIE **Ed. Brian Scovell** *(Partridge, £12.99)*	£33,247
5 A SCANDALOUS LIFE **Mary S. Lovell** *(Fourth Estate, £8.99)*	£19,211
6 ALBERT SPEER **Gitta Sereny** *(Picador, £9.99)*	£20,198
7 BRIAN JOHNSTON **Tim Heald** *(Mandarin, £5.99)*	£11,189
8 JACK THE RIPPER **Stewart P. Evans** *(Arrow, £6.99)*	£10,841
9 BOYZONE **Eugene Matterson** *(Mainstream, £5.99)*	£8,445
10 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE **Lytton Strachey** *(Penguin, £0.60)*	£832

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Roy Porter explores Norman Davies's Europe; Nicholas Henderson is *Fighting with Allies*; Matthew Parris goes behind the smile of Tony Blair

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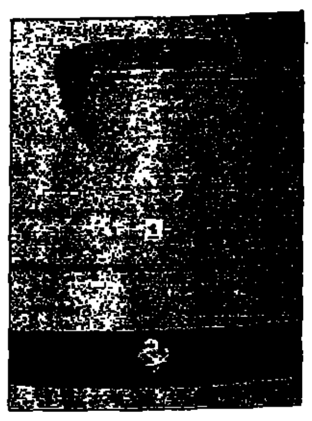
Vanessa tells all about her marriage to Figaro

Page 5

THE TIMES CAR 96

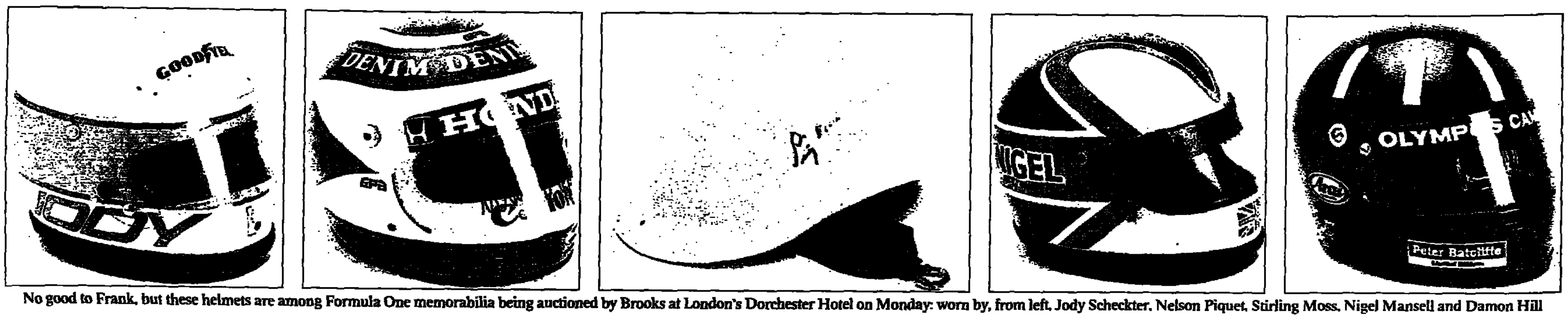
Why the top man at Ferrari sings the blues

Page 12



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1996

You could be the owner of one of these famous F1 racing helmets — and at least you'll be able to put it on



No good to Frank, but these helmets are among Formula One memorabilia being auctioned by Brooks at London's Dorchester Hotel on Monday: worn by, from left, Jody Scheckter, Nelson Piquet, Stirling Moss, Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill

Found: a skidlid fit for a bighead

Jennai Cox on how *Car 96* helped to find a solution to a would-be biker's outsize problem

CHRIS HARRIS

Frank Horack and the Shoei that fits: "Dealers just didn't believe it when I told them my head size until I tried to put one of their helmets on and it didn't get past the tops of my ears"

Frank Horack has a problem: he is a bighead. Not that you could tell just by looking at him, but Frank's cranium is one in a million. The problem is that he wanted a motorcycle to ride to work — but that meant wearing a helmet.

The average head size is seven and a quarter inches, Frank's is eight and an eighth — two sizes bigger than the biggest available in bike shops, which sell around 300,000 helmets a year. Frank scoured the country — even travelling to a specialist dealer in Dublin — but to no avail.

"Every dealer just shrugged their shoulders and said: 'You are out of luck mate'," he says. "They just didn't believe it when I told them my head size until I tried to put one of their helmets on and it didn't get past the tops of my ears."

Using the logic that everything in America is bigger, one dealer told him to try a dealer in the US. Frank faxed a request for help along with his helmet size. "They faxed me back: 'Are you kidding? There must be some sort of mistake'."

There was no place to turn for help except *Car 96*. There were no outsize motorcycle shops in Yellow Pages, so we took Frank to Metropolis Motorcycles, one of London's biggest bike shops, to see if it might have something in its cavernous stock cupboard.

But Frank knew it would not work; he has only owned two hats in his life, and one of those had to be specially made. He was right. Manager Ian Waldock stared in disbelief at his tape measure and then at Frank's crown while his assistant, Olivia Ferrari, unboxed helmet after helmet to find one the right size.

She pushed, he pulled. Frank grimaced. They tucked his ears in, they squashed his nose, but nothing was going to fit. Ian admitted: "We have only seen four heads this size all year so we will have to send out for something a bit special for Frank."

Frank might not like it, but he is at the start of a new trend because Britain's heads are getting bigger, according to Helmets Integrated Systems in Scotland, which uses research on head sizes for its manufacture of helmets.

Jan Korny, sales and marketing director, says: "The problem at the moment is that manufacturers are working to European standards using anthropometric data which is probably more than 20 years old. In the next five years, they will have to update this because the small number of people with big heads is about to become a large number as people get bigger with each generation."

Everoak, a London company which builds helmets to order, could have helped, but the minimum price is £235, against £150 for a standard helmet. Managing director Jeff Poulter believes Frank is one of a growing number of frustrated would-be bikers.

"More and more people are getting interested in bike riding, so we will start encountering this problem," he says. "There are as many different head shapes and sizes as there are potatoes."

It seemed that Frank would be condemned to a life with his head exposed to the elements unless *Car 96* could come up trumps — or he became a Sikh, the only bikers with an exemption from wearing helmets because of their turbans. Frank in a turban? No.

But help was at hand. A breathless telephone call from Ian Waldock revealed he had gone direct to Shoei, the Japanese helmet manufacturer, which had found an extra large helmet — size XXL — for him. Shoei and the other main maker, Arai, sell no more than five XXLs each a year. Frank dashed back to Metropolis where *Car 96* waited for the moment of truth. He parted the straps and . . . his head slid gracefully into the helmet. Frank shall have his motorcycle after all.

Shoei was so pleased that the company decided to donate the £150 helmet to Frank to send him happily on his motorbiking way.

Frank was delighted. "After all these years, I can at last think realistically about getting on a motorcycle."

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HELMETS

- ● Size is calculated by taking the circumference of your head and dividing by pi (3.14). Two best-selling helmet manufacturers, Arai and Shoei, do not sell more than five extra-large helmets here annually.
- ● Most expensive helmet is an Arai, priced £499, and the cheapest £35. The average price of a 7¼ (medium) size helmet is £150.
- ● Men usually buy helmets a size too large and women two sizes too large. Women with long hair do not need larger helmets and could wear a necktube to keep their locks in place.
- ● Deafness is more of a danger to bikers: Southampton University reveals up to 20 per cent of motorbike riders suffer deafness caused by the windrush over their helmets. Wear ear plugs.
- ● Helmets are plastic or fibreglass lined with polystyrene padding underneath comfort material. Kevlar, used for cockpits of Formula One cars, is increasingly used.
- ● In 1905, Henry Armstrong, Newcastle upon Tyne's medical officer, disputed the widely-held belief that the human body was shrinking, quoting milliners who were selling bigger hats.
- ● In the 1970s Dutch scientists discovered the coconut shell was better at absorbing shocks than any helmet on the market.
- ● A £6-per-bottle helmet sanitiser, *Shift it*, allows bike riders to clean the inside of their helmets instead of buying a new one.
- ● Everoak, founded in 1778, made helmets for the Light Brigade.
- ● Motorcycle City is the largest helmet retailer, selling around 20,000 from 15 manufacturers.

Hats off to lots of great drivers

Alan Copps in auction gear

From the plain white shell that resembles a polo helmet with its peak, leather straps and ear protectors worn by Stirling Moss, to the Day-Glo stickered, sponsors' advertising domes of Nelson Piquet and Jody Scheckter.

From the patriotically emblazoned Union Jack of Nigel Mansell to the London Rowing Club colours of Damon Hill and the tartans and St Andrew's crosses of Jackie Stewart and David Coulthard: every helmet tells a story.

Frank Horack might wince at having to pay £200 or more, but if he wanted to buy a piece of Formula One headgear he'd have to pay thousands; even a baseball cap signed by Michael Schumacher could cost £800.

The record price for a helmet is held by one worn by Ayrton Senna, sold earlier this year in Geneva for £40,000. But such is the current enthusiasm for anything worn or signed by a leading driver that it might be in danger.

The Moss helmet especially is a rarity and provides an excellent illustration of how things have changed over the years. It is one of only four that the British ace wore in a career spanning 13 years in the top flight and the only one to ever be offered for sale. Brooks' expert Peter Card is reluctant to put an estimate on it, but Damon Hill's hat worn in his first Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1992 is estimated at £6,000 to £7,500.

"Now the Formula One authorities insist on helmets, clothing and shoes being changed after a certain number of hours racing. In those days racing kit might have lasted a lifetime," says Card.

Hats are naturally expected to be among the top lots, even one worn by Pedro Lamy, Minardi's Portuguese driver who has struggled to qualify for many grands prix this season is estimated at £1,600-£2,000. Other items include an undershirt and a pair of boots worn by Hill, which could prove good investments if he clinches the championship in Japan next month.

One reason why Cliff Crofts of the F.T. chose Orange

	Orange	Vodafone	Cellnet
Cost of listening to a 1 minute answerphone message each day for one month	£2.70	£11.80	£11.80

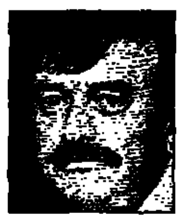
orange
Hutchison Telecom

Available from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Currys, Comet, John Lewis Partnership, Granada, Tempo, Norweb, Hutchison Telecom Retail and Orange shops

Whatever Britain's Thrust SSC achieves, it will be of no use to ordinary mortals driving down the Old Kent Road

A 700mph dash to total irrelevance

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

I have always had difficulty with speed for its own sake. I understand and enjoy motor racing, for that is speed for the sake of winning a race. Speed across water can be thrilling, even without a racing context, for shifting aside tons of reluctant water provides a certain (if self-deceptive) sense of overcoming nature.

But I cannot for the life of me work out what the world land speed record is all about. The British Thrust SSC Team team plans a dash across the Black Rock Desert in Nevada next month, this time in an attempt to break the sound barrier.

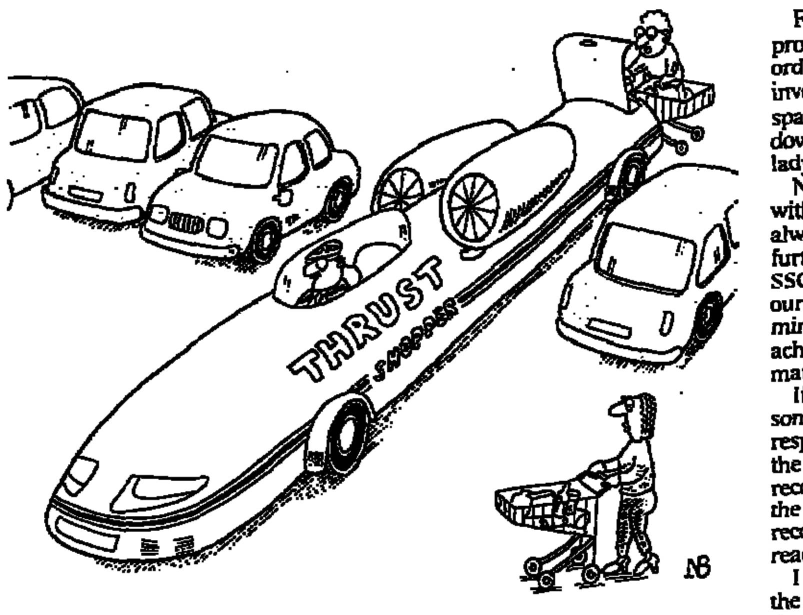
What exactly is this for? In the old days of land speed record attempts, there was at least some connection with reality. The object was to see what speed could be achieved over the measured mile in a vehicle that might reasonably pass for a car.

The first record was set by Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat in an ordinary family saloon: he clocked 35mph, which was considered sensational. But Malcolm Campbell and his son, Donald, made the event glamorous, still driving vehicles that, although specialised and exotic, bore some resemblance to the kind of vehicle to which ordinary mortals might aspire.

A key change happened after the Campbell records. Until then, the vehicle involved had to be powered through the wheels, which meant it needed a transmission mechanism. This made it, more or less, a car. But when this crucial link was abolished, we were in fantasy land.

And so comes Thrust SSC. This is not a vehicle, it is a pod. It is not powered by anything even close to a car engine, but by two Phantom jet engines. These are designed to break the sound barrier and do so with ease. In the air. The question is whether the Thrust team have got the aerodynamics right to the point where Thrust will exceed 700mph without leaving the ground. If so, it will prove nothing whatsoever that matters to me. They will have contributed nothing to the development of land vehicles as we known them. The driver of Thrust has about as much of a connection to the ordinary driver on the road as Bishop Roddy Wright has to moral rectitude.

I expect I will now be told that Thrust SSC (and Craig Breeedlove's similar American rival) are contributing to future car design, that one day we shall all be riding around on top of a jet engine. I think not.



For one thing, slowing a jet-propelled vehicle to the point where ordinary brakes might be of any use involves a parachute, which has spatial disadvantages when slowing down in the Old Kent Road so an old lady can cross to the other side.

Neither am I much impressed with the argument that man will always want go faster, higher, further, so pouring scorn on Thrust SSC defies natural laws that govern our behaviour. But Everest, the four-minute mile and other landmark achievements represented legitimate, natural, ambitions.

If we are going to argue that something which is in nearly all respects an aircraft that cannot leave the ground has set a land speed record, we might as well argue that the Wright brothers set a land speed record a moment before they reached take-off speed.

I hope that the Thrust lads break the sound barrier on land. No doubt there will be lots of exciting scientific data about what happens when a sonic boom occurs two feet above the surface of the planet. But nothing alters the fact that the land speed record has become disconnected from the ordinary person's understanding of what consititutes travelling on land. That in turns means that Thrust SSC may be an object of our curiosity, but can never enter our consciousness as an object of pride or excitement.

According to which book?

Vaughan Freeman finds different gospels in the 'bibles' of used car prices

Motorists selling cars have been warned that resale prices could be adrift by as much as £1,000 as experts fall out over the true value of used vehicles.

Check the motor industry's leading price guides and there is little to help you discover the worth of a used car. The wildly conflicting figures show such disparity that private sellers, auctioneers, dealer groups, motor manufacturers, fleet managers and anyone else closely involved in the used car industry, are finding themselves at a loss.

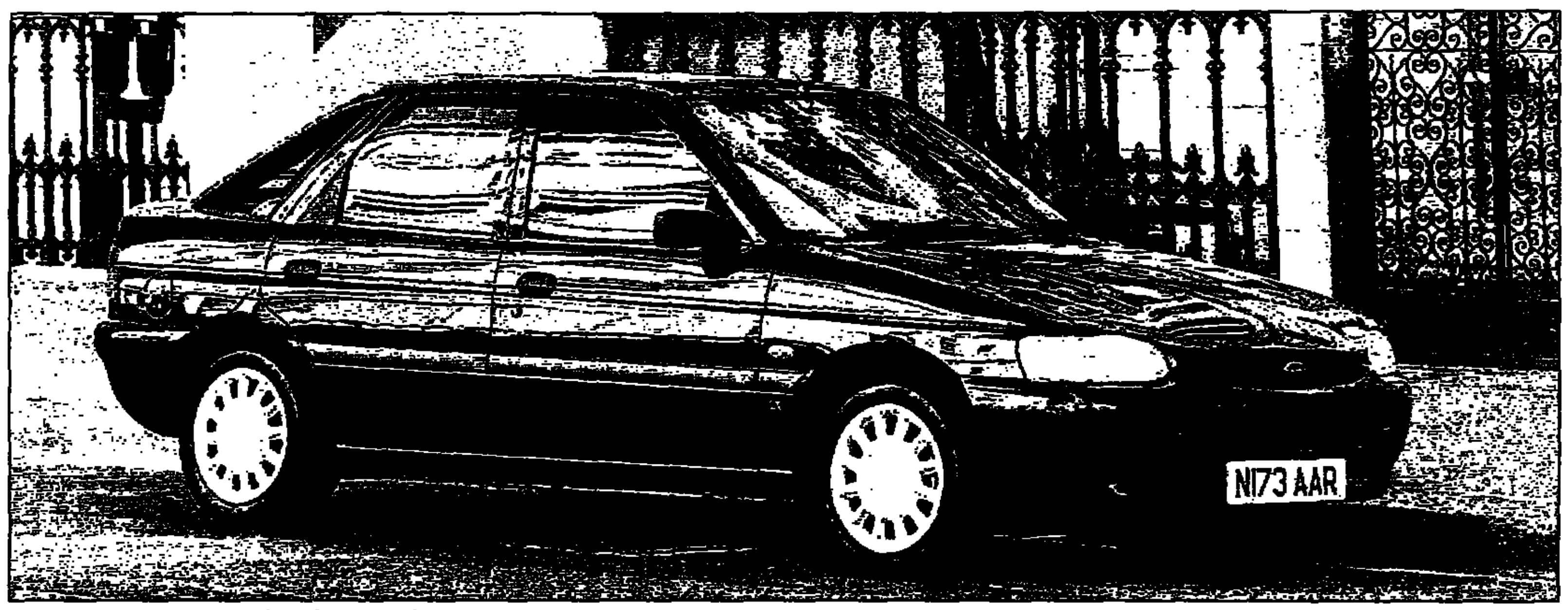
The industry's two leading price guides are the *CAP Black Book* and *Glass's Guide*. Go to any car auction, and one of these pocket-sized pricing "bibles" will be seen nestling snugly up against the mobile phone inside the sheepskin jacket. Visit your local showroom, ask for a valuation on your used car as a part-exchange against the shiny new model you fancy, and the salesman will go over to his desk and slide open a drawer.

Inside will sit one, or both, guides, regarded universally as the most authoritative means of putting a value on any car. Both go into minute detail spelling out precise allowances for condition, mileage and specification of every popular make and model.

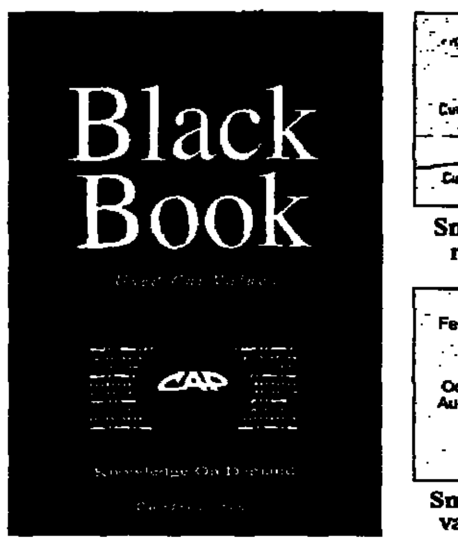
You would think that an industry which sells around £20 billion worth of cars a year — and selling three times more used cars than new —would be able to agree on just what a model is worth. But comparing the pages of the latest *CAP Black Book* side by side with *Glass's Guide* highlights the problem.

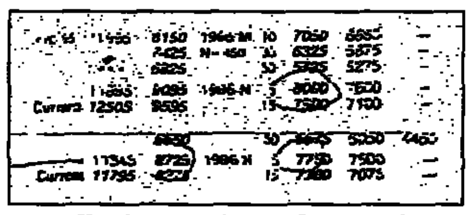
CAP quotes a trade price of £7,750 for a 1996 Vauxhall Astra 1.4iLS 60ps five-door with 5,000 miles on the clock: *Glass's Guide* figure for the same car is £8,750, the only, hardly critical, difference being that this is for 6,000 miles.Glass's gives a retail. forecourt value of £9,825 for the Astra, but CAP values it at £8,725.

It is the same story for the new Ford Escort 1.6 16-valve LX five-door hatchback: CAP values it at £8,000 on 5,000 miles; Glass's at £8,875 on 6,000 miles, a difference of £875. Whereas Glass's recommends the car be sold for £9,950 retail, CAP gives it a retail value of £9,095.



Ford Escort LX five-door hatchback: worth £8,000 according to CAP, but Glass says another £875 — and with 1,000 more miles on the clock





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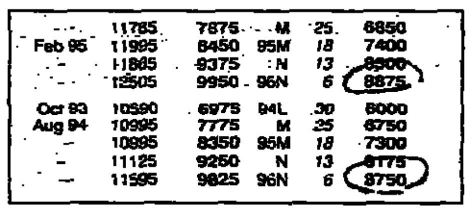
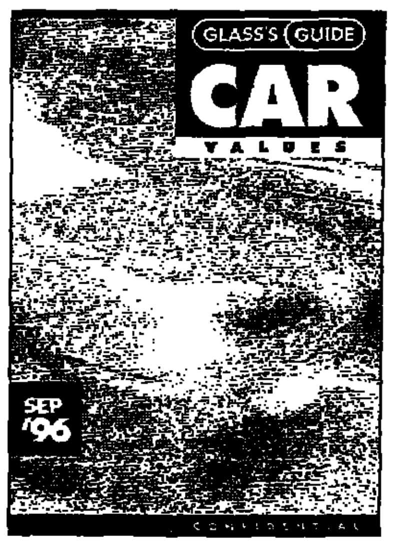
		6825		33	5825	5275	–
	11885	8095	1996-N	5	8000	7520	–
Current	12505	9595		15	7500	7100	–
		8850		30	[illegible]	5250	4450
	11345	8725	1996 N	5	7750	7500	–
Current	11795	[illegible]		15	7380	7075	–

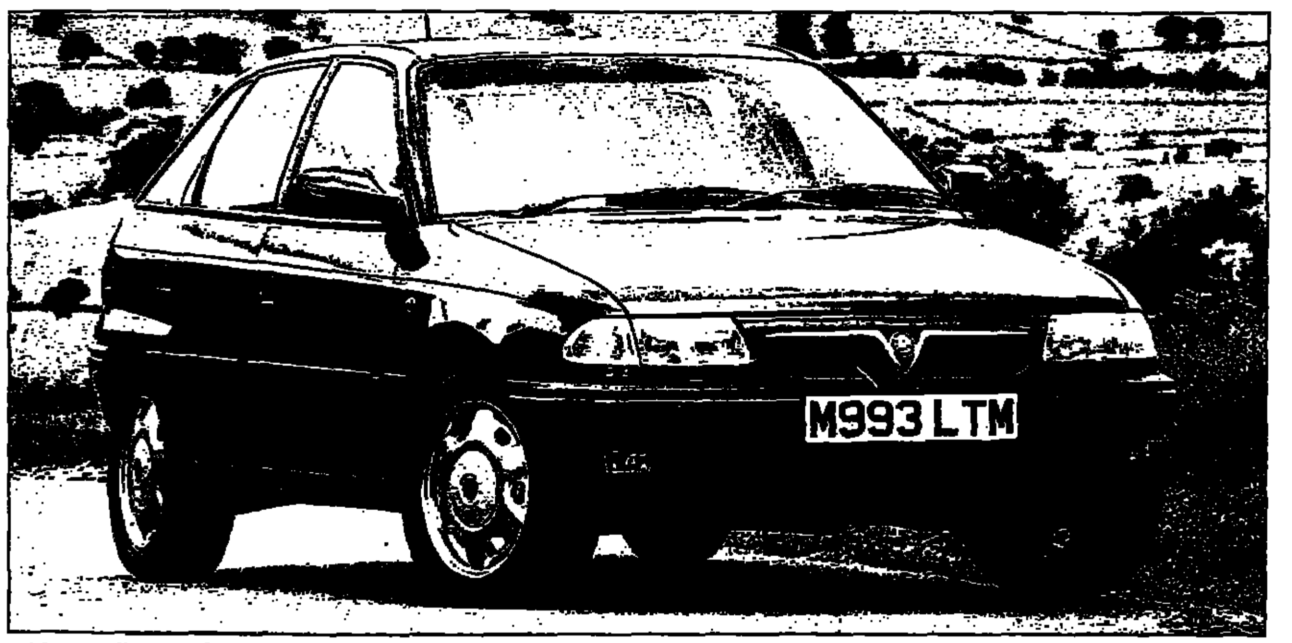
Small print 1: CAP says that its values represent what is really happening



	11785	7875	M	25	6850
Feb 95	11995	8450	95M	18	7400
–	11865	9375	N	13	8900
	12505	9950	96N	6	8875
Oct 93	10590	6975	94L	30	6000
Aug 94	10995	7775	M	25	6750
–	10995	8350	95M	18	7300
–	11125	9250	N	13	8175
–	11595	9825	96N	6	8750

Small print 2: Glass's say that residual values have at last begun to improve





Vauxhall Astra five-door: Glass's price guide advises dealers that it's worth £1,000 more than CAP recommends

If private customers are confused, then so too are the experts. Competition is fierce between garages in every town and these little books are the closely-guarded secrets of the trade. They are always marked "confidential" and subscriptions are not the least of the overheads for many small businesses. Paul Tapping, used car sales manager and used car trade manager at Pentagon Vauxhall, Derby, says: "The trade is not dealing very well with this situation at the moment."

Tapping, whose business sells between 700 and 1,000 retail used cars a year and between 1,000 and 1,500 nearly new cars, adds: "We are hoping for the Glass's prices to come back a little bit, but at the moment I'm not seeing much sign of that happening. Glass's have never kept a car as high as they have the Astra, though I would say too that CAP has been a bit hard.

"The values have to be brought down to what the market values the cars at and what people are selling them for. I don't think that we in the industry should be setting unreal prices, but I do think that two organisations in the same area of the industry should be able to get their values a little closer together."

Steve Burrows, Dixons' operations director, said: "CAP seem to recognise where the pricing levels should be, and Glass's don't. We think that Glass's is well adrift and don't seem to reflect the true pricing of the car relative to supply. CAP on the other hand are a bit harsh if anything and by taking it down have gone a bit too far."

Burrows says that in recent months Dixons, the garage group which sells 25,000 new and used cars a year, has been careful to hedge against just such a problem by ensuring it has a mix of stock so it is not too exposed in any single car sector.

Given the wide disparities in valuations says Wesley Needham, Sales Controller at Perry Motor Sales, personal experience is even more important: "At the end of the day, they are just guides. We have got CAP on the computer so I use that and put in whatever mileages the car has got on for a value, then look at Glass's and judge for myself."

Not only traders are confused: a fleet executive with a leading volume manufacturer says: "It's all causing a lot of complications for people in the marketplace in a business dominated by rental returns.

"I'd say that CAP is more used by auction buyers and more closely reflects prices of sales in pound notes, while Glass's works more to reflect trends. I suppose the ideal is for anyone buying to point the vendor to CAP and for anyone selling to turn to Glass's."

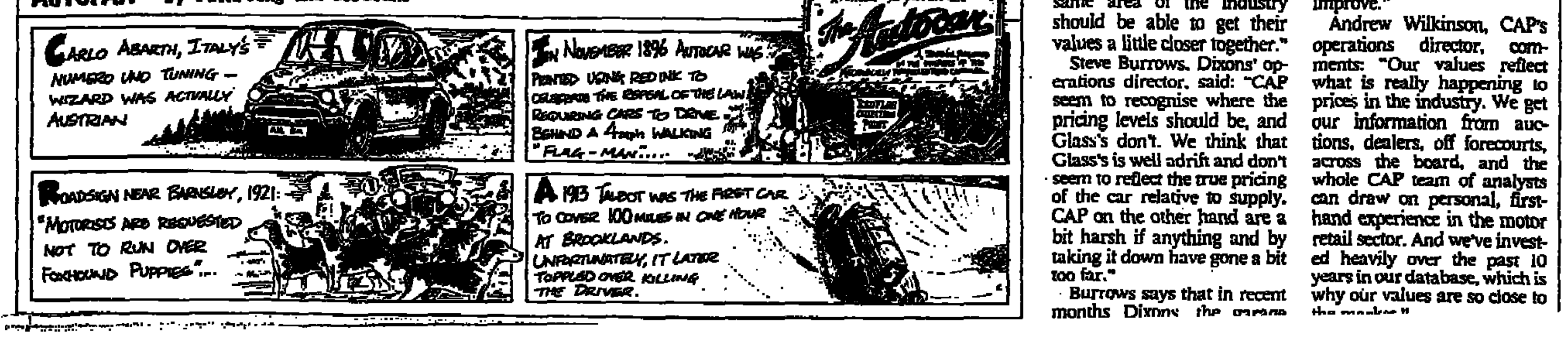
So what do the publishers say? Glass's defends its higher valuations saying they reflect retail values rather than bulk fleet auction prices and the fact that the supply of four-month-old, nearly-new, ex-rental stock has dried up.

Chief editor, Arnie Fenn, says: "We both get our information from the same sources, but it is a question of interpretation. Our values relate to what a retail buyer might pay for a car. We are more retail oriented than CAP and we believe that our higher values reflect the laws of supply and demand.

"This practice of swamping the rental market with Astras, Escorts, Mondeos and Cavaliers has ceased. The end result has been a dramatic reduction in the oversupply of nearly new cars that clogged the used market for most of 1995. As a result, residual values have at last begun to improve."

Andrew Wilkinson, CAP's operations director, comments: "Our values reflect what is really happening to prices in the industry. We get our information from auctions, dealers, off forecourts, across the board, and the whole CAP team of analysts can draw on personal, first-hand experience in the motor retail sector. And we've invested heavily over the past 10 years in our database, which is why our values are so close to the market."

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


CARLO ABARTH, ITALY'S NUMERO UNO TUNING — WIZARD WAS ACTUALLY AUSTRIAN
IN NOVEMBER 1896 AUTOCAR WAS PRINTED USING RED INK TO CELEBRATE THE REPEAL OF THE LAW REQUIRING CARS TO DRIVE BEHIND A 4mph WALKING "FLAG - MAN"....
The Autocar
ROADSIGN NEAR BARNSLEY, 1921: "MOTORISTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO RUN OVER FOXHOUND PUPPIES"...
A 1913 TALBOT WAS THE FIRST CAR TO COVER 100 MILES IN ONE HOUR AT BROOKLANDS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT LATER TOPPLED OVER KILLING THE DRIVER.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A30 Ashford Lane.
Closures on London Road for repairs at the junction with Stanwell Road and Town road. Expect delays.
A205 Dulwich. Resurfacing on Thurlow Park Road with various restrictions in operation both ways which will cause regular peak time delays.
A400 Kentish Town. Resurfacing on Fortress Road means southbound traffic is being diverted from the Archway roundabout and northbound from Camden Road.
A406 East Finchley. Traffic down to a single lane on the North Circular Road at various locations between the A1 and Colney Hatch Lane.
A4005 Harrow. Temporary lights and restrictions on Roxeth Hill for repairs between Middle Road and Harrow hospital will cause peak time delays.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A329M Berkshire closed southbound between 9pm and 6am between the A4 and the Winnersh Triangle for resurfacing work.
Diversions via the A4 London Road and the A329 Wokingham Road.
A40 High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Temporary lights Oxford Road for roadworks.
A287 Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Temporary lights on Frant Road between Birling Road and Roedean Road for roadworks. Expect delays.
M25 Surrey. Various restrictions and lane closures both ways between Godstone and the A3 as major widening work continues along the 19-mile stretch.
A273 Hassocks, West Sussex. Restrictions on London Road for construction work with temporary lights.

● **SOUTH-WEST**
A374 Cornwall.
Resurfacing work between Trerulefoot and Milladon.
A381 Teignmouth, Devon. Restrictions for roadworks between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive.
M4 Gloucestershire.
Contraflow between the Bristol West and Clevedon junctions as major roadworks continue, with a 50mph speed limit across the Avonmouth Bridge.
A38 Gloucester. Major roadworks continue at the Cole Avenue roundabout. Expect long delays which will also affect traffic from Shepherd Road.
A3062 Bath, Somerset. Restrictions on Prior Park Road for gas work, expect long peak time delays.

● **MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA**
A500 Staffordshire.
Contraflow between Talke and Stoke on Trent as roadworks continue. Expect regular delays.
M6 Cheshire. Carriageway reduced to three lanes in the widening work near the Thelwall Viaduct between the Lymm and Croft junctions.
A6 Leicestershire.
Contraflow from just north of the M1 junction 24 to Sawley Island (B6540) as major roadworks continue, with no right turn into Donnington Lane.
A143 Rickinghall, Suffolk. Superior Lane closed in both directions for roadworks.
A41 Wolverhampton. Temporary lights on Bilston Road between Eagle Street and Chillington Street for canal bridge strengthening work.

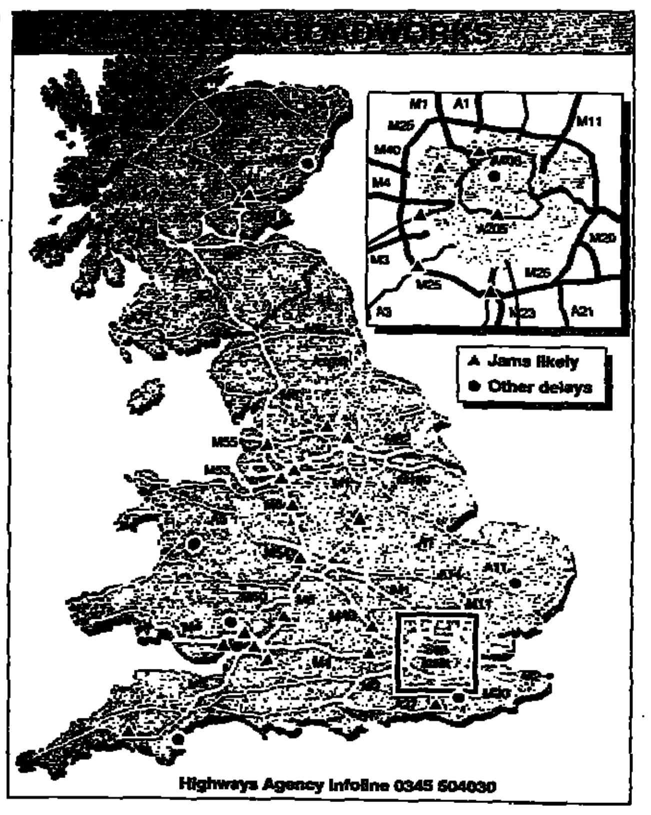
● **NORTH**
M6 Lancashire. Lane closures both ways for repair work between the M61 and M55 junctions will cause delays as traffic builds at peak periods.
A59 Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire. Beamsley Hill closed for major roadworks during the week with a diversion via the A65.
A62 Hollinwood, Greater Manchester. Manchester Road down to one lane between Mersey Road and Bower Lane as M66 construction work continues.
M1 West Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions as a result. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

● **WALES**
A48 Cardiff. Restrictions eastbound on Eastern Avenue, just west of Allensbank Road bridge near the University Hospital.
A470 Powys.Temporary lights at Ffridd Fawr near Llanbrynmair as roadworks continue.
A472 Pontypool. Contraflow between Pontemoile and the Heron roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042.
M4 Monmouthshire. Lane closures between the Magor and Newport junctions as major widening work continues. Expect regular rush hour delays.

● **SCOTLAND**
A90 Angus. Contraflow on the Brechin bypass at Cookstown for roadworks.
M90 Perth and Kinross. Roadworks both ways on Neccesity Brae Bridge will cause delays at peak periods.
A93 Perth. Construction work continues with restrictions and temporary lights along the whole road.
A741 Paisley. Contraflow on Renfrew Road near Dundonald Road junctions.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**
M22 County Antrim.
Contraflow in operation between Ballygrooby and Dunsilly for bridge maintenance work.
M1 County Antrim. Down to two lanes both ways between Saintfield Road and Ballnahinch Road bridges for maintenance work.
A12 Belfast. Width restrictions on West Belfast link between Grosvenor Road and Broadway roundabout for cable works.

ROADWORKS



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Courtesy day

SO THE kids wouldn't co-operate, the car wouldn't start and you are late for that vital appointment. But you could still be polite when you finally set off for work, according to the RAC. The motoring organisation is supporting National Courtesy Day next Friday to help the Polite Society, which believes that a little thought would eradicate road rage, among other unpleasant activities.

Volkswagen cuts

VOLKSWAGEN has tried to hit competitors hard by pinning prices of its new Mondeo-competitor Passat as low as possible. On-the-road prices will start at £13,995 for the Passat E 1.6-litre (100 brake horse power) model up to £21,836 for the Passat V6 Synchro Sport, which boasts a 193bhp, 2.8-litre power pack. Standard equipment includes central locking and anti-lock brakes for all models.

Jag appeals in US

JAGUAR took top scores in a survey to discover the level of standards that are offered by the highest quality cars on sale in the United States. The British manufacturer was alongside the BMW 7-series and Lexus LS400 in the premium luxury cars section of the APEAL (Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout) Study, which determines the attitude of 25,000 American buyers to their new cars, researching issues such as cabin layout, ride and handling, seats, ventilation and sound system. Jaguar's XJ saloons were picked along with just 34 other models in the vast American market in the J D Power and

هكذا من الاصل

Two wheels good for 50 years

Linda Galloway goes to Rome to test the new model of a scooter that put Italy and the world on the road

It is not possible to bring Rome to a standstill. I tried. Even when the cars have slowed to a crawl, something keeps moving, zipping between, darting in and out: the scooter.

An Italian invention — and one of its most famous and successful exports — the original Vespa turns 50 this year and celebrated the event in true Roman style. More than 500 journalists were flown in from around the world to meet the latest children in the Vespa family, the ET2 and ET4. Even the Prime Minister, Romano Prodi — in the midst of a political crisis — turned up for the party.

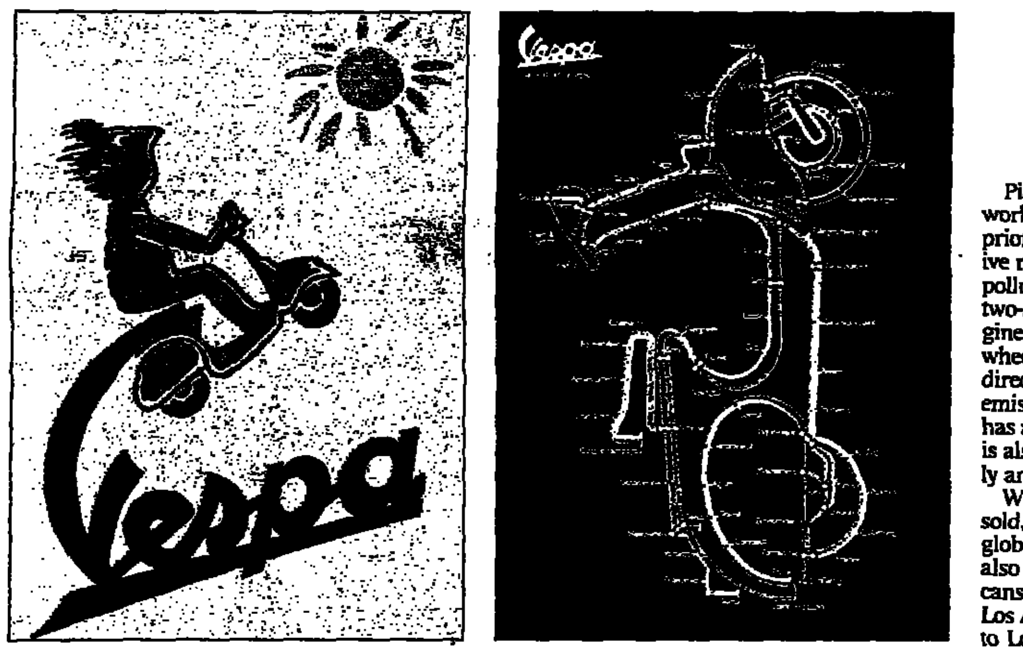
Company chairman Giovanni Agnelli was ecstatic. He quoted an article from *The Times* in the early Fifties: "The Vespa is the Italian vehicle *par excellence*, whose like we have not seen for centuries, since the age of the Roman chariot."

Addressing manufacturer Piaggio's largest press conference, beamed across the world live on the Internet from the room where scenes for *Roman Holiday* (remember Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn on a Vespa?) were filmed, Agnelli charted the phenomenon from humble beginnings as an industrial product designed to get Italy moving in the post-war years to a Nineties cultural icon with an extraordinary ability to arouse affection.

"It is unique as the vehicle that not only accompanied but almost guided Italy's desire for freedom and growth; unique as a product that by constantly adapting but never betraying its principles was the first step towards mass motorisation and individual transport for generation after generation; unique as the symbol of *joie de vivre* in the *Dolce Vita* years; unique as the answer to the demand for independence advanced by the young people of the Sixties and Seventies."

The Vespa's status as a style icon is unchallenged. Alongside the Zippo lighter and other trademarks such as Coca-Cola, it has acquired cult status, helped along by, among others, Sting in *Quadrophenia*. It is what springs to mind when you say scooter.

Agnelli — dubbed one of Europe's most eligible bachelors — is the grandson of Enrico Piaggio, who with Corradino D'Ascanio designed and produced the world's first scooter, in 1946 — with the aim of putting Italy "on two wheels". The country's transport system developed alongside the Vespa, so that today the infrastructure in Rome provides thousands of scooter parking bays, and train stations have lockers for helmet storage.



The ET4, above, and classic Vespa posters by Raymond Savignac, left, and Italo Lupi

Piaggio is committed to working with legislators to prioritise scooters as an effective response to congestion and pollution. The Vespa 50 has a two-stroke direct-injection engine, making it the only two-wheeler to comply with the EU directives on exhaust and noise emissions before 2000. The 125 has a four-stroke engine which is also environmentally-friendly and fuel-efficient.

With more than 15 million sold, the Vespa identity is now global, and the fan clubs are also legendary. Five Americans rode their scooters from Los Angeles to New York, flew to London then rode to Rome for the celebrations, and an Italian, Giorgio Bettinelli, started in Melbourne last September and rode 32,000 miles, arriving in Cape Town a year later — having changed only one tyre and two spark plugs.

Simple lines instantly Vespa

We put the new scooters through their paces in the equally legendary Rome traffic, racing round the Colosseum and pootling past the monument to the Italian king and egoist *extraordinaire*, Victor Emmanuel. British motorcycle racing ace Sean Emmett also put the new additions to the test. He skidded impressively to a halt next to me as we added to the chaos on the roads under the benign eye of the *carabinieri* and at the mercy of surprisingly indulgent car drivers.

Rome traffic is virtually controlled by scooter riders, and car drivers seem inured to their presence, defensively dealing with standard adventurous displays, occasionally giving a petulant hoot at a more outrageous manoeuvre.

The looks of the ET2 and ET4 are undeniably Vespa, the simple lines instantly identifiable, but with Nineties detailing, such as the sophisticated instruments and the range of fashion colours (rust and navy blue, and a shocking beta-carotene alongside the more traditional pistacchio, cream and black — a range of colours arrived at with the assistance of architect Adalberto Dal Lago). I wasn't keen on the optional police riot-shield-style visor, although I could see it being a useful weather barrier in winter.

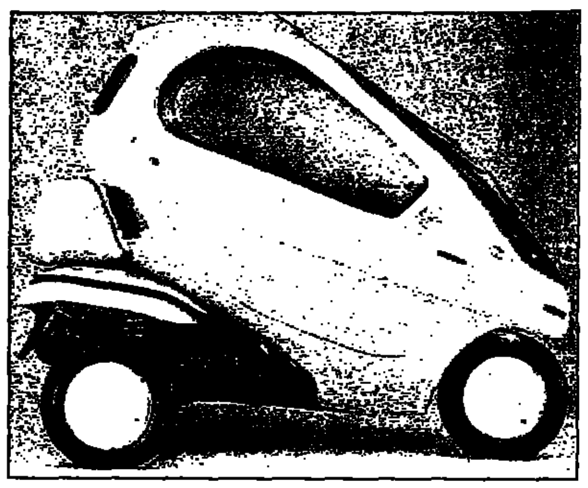
The back rack is handily briefcase-sized. The ride is easy, the scooter is light and agile, with foolproof twist-and-go technology and more than enough power for city driving.

Promoting what has now been identified as the "Vespa Lifestyle", is a range of clothing and accessories designed by Marco Trapella for W.P. Lavori and a book, *The cult of Vespa*, in which a range of writers, philosphers and gurus, from Umberto Eco to Francesco Alberoni, deconstruct the legend. Well worth delving into over an espresso.

- *The 125cc Vespa ET4 retails at £2,449; the ET2 will not be on sale until next year.*

Scooting towards tomorrow

The Spazio is an aerodynamic descendant of Vespa . . .



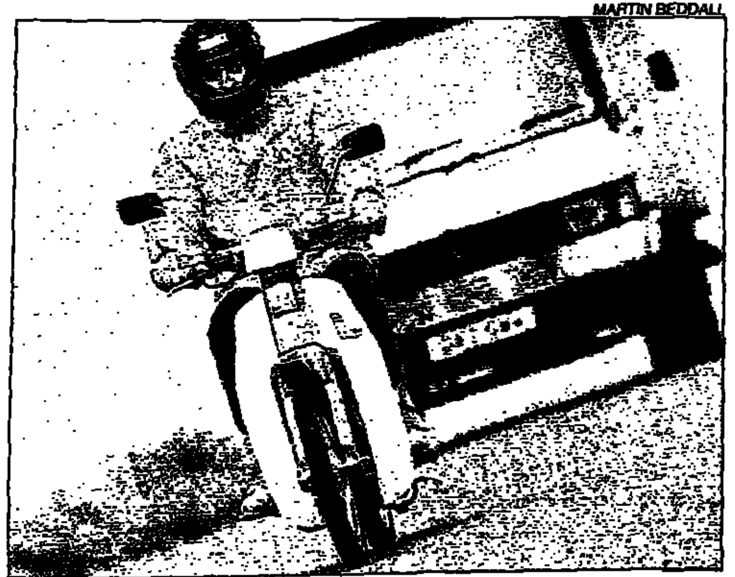
. . . which is changing direction with its P103 concept

■ DESIGNERS working on the two-wheelers of the future have incorporated the latest aerodynamics to come up with the curvy Spazio. Its steeply raked screen does not conceal the fact that it is a direct descendant of the Vespa and scooters we recognise today. But what of Piaggio's P103 concept vehicle, which turns the idea of the scooter into something completely different? A single-seater, this is a three-wheeler with egg-shaped bodywork, two doors and front and rear luggage space though still powered by an economical 50cc engine for high fuel economy.

Vaughan Freeman relives the pleasures of riding a Honda C90

A very small big seller

MARTIN BEDDALL



I was usually right to imagine a large vehicle about to overtake

When it comes to big-selling machines, none is bigger than the diminutive Honda C90. The Super Cub family has sold more than 30 million worldwide since 1958.

Three million sold last year alone — as the peoples' favourite from Brazil to Thailand, Indonesia to Vietnam, and for many years the best-selling two-wheeler in Britain too, where it remains the favourite for under 100cc motorcycles.

One single fact gives the cheap and cheerful C90 all the credibility it needs: 100 miles to the gallon, minimum — and it's a true figure.

Then there are the stylish touches such as sturdy legshields and the semi-automatic clutch. There is also a step-through frame for modest bike mounting.

The machine has changed little since Soichiro Honda came up with the idea. After the Second World War, he fitted small ex-military generators to bicycles to get Japan moving again. There followed a bicycle fitted with Honda's own two-stroke 50cc engine kit, complete with white fuel tank for, as Soichiro explained: "Only when aesthetic value is added to practical value does a product become perfectly commercial."

Unlike other small two-wheelers the Cub, in 50cc, 70cc and 90cc form, used a more advanced four-stroke engine giving extraordinary power levels for the time, the 50cc producing the equivalent of 90 brake horse power per litre.

Honda targeted America with its new small bike, believing if they could sell it in the land of the leather-clad Harley Davidson biker, they could sell it anywhere. Six years after launching into the US, Honda was selling 268,000 Cubs a year. Production passed 5 million in 1967, 10 million in 1974, and 21 million in 1993, with the Cub bikes manufactured in 11 countries and sold in more than 120.

So, what is it like to ride? John Harris runs his own Honda dealership in Crowborough, East Sussex, and loaned me a C90 to blow away the cobwebs and wind back the years. A few minutes after John's careful run-through of the controls, I was on my way, L plates on proud display.

First reaction is how incredibly easy it is to ride though an effective top speed of 50mph is academic. Even 40mph seems quite fast enough. The engine is very smooth and the three gears, operated by the left foot, easier to operate than those on a modern bicycle.

The brakes, one operated by the right foot, and the other by the right hand, which also has the twist throttle, seem adequate and give confidence. All the control buttons are big enough to operate with gloves on, though I kept forgetting to cancel the indicators. The very upright riding position makes you susceptible to crosswinds, the ride is very comfortable. The only worrying factor was the feeling that at such a modest pace there must be a large vehicle just out of sight behind me and about to overtake. Usually there was.

What do his customers think of the bike? "Wherever you go in the world, you'll find a Toyota pick-up truck, and a C90," Harris says. "Many of my customers have a bigger bike, or a car, but use their C90 for getting to work, or going to the station in the morning knowing they will not have any parking problems. It's perfect for pootling around and will run on petrol vapour it's so economical."

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93L 80 2.0E ESTATE, Laser Red, Alloys, 45,000 Miles, ESR, ABS, FSH
93L CABRIOLET 2.6, Indigo Blue, Alloys, CD Player, 23,000 miles
95N A4 QUATTRO SALOON, Pearl blue, 9,000 miles, Leather, Walnut, Alloys
93L S2 ESTATE, Black, 35,000 miles, Air Conditioning
94L 100 SE ESTATE, Volcano Black, Automatic, Leather Upholstery, 15,000 miles
95M 2.3 E CABRIOLET, Kingfisher Blue, Automatic, Alloys, FSH, 9,000 miles
95N A8 4.2 QUATTRO SPORT, Emerald Green, 4,000 miles, Demo
95M A6 2.5 TDI SE ESTATE (140 Bhp), 10,000 miles, Amazon Green
92J 80 2.0E 16v SALOON, Ruby Red, 47,000 miles, Sunroof, FSH
95M 2.6 CABRIOLET, Amazon Green, 10,000 miles, Power Hood, 10 Spoke Wheels
95M A4 1.8, Autumn Red, Alloys, Rear Spoiler, 1 owner, 11,000 miles

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93L 2.3 CABRIOLET Automatic, Indigo Blue Pearl, Full Leather, P/Hood
95N 2.6 CABRIOLET, Byzanz/Leather, Alloys, Power Hood, 7,000 miles
93K 2.3 CABRIOLET, Laser Red, Full Leather, BBS Alloy Wheels
95M 2.6 CABRIOLET Automatic, Silver, Full Leather, P/Hood, Air Con., Walnut
95N A6 2.8 SE AUTO SALOON, Emerald Green, 5,000 miles, Walnut, Alloys, ABS, Airbag, CDL
95M A4 1.8 SE, Laser Red, 11,000 miles, Climate Control, Alloys, ABS, PAS
95P A4 Automatic, Blue Pearl, Alloy Wheels, Sports Seats, Lumbar Support, 11,000 miles, ABS/PAS
95M COUPE 2.3 10v, Ruby Red, Metallic, Sunroof, PAS, ABS
94M COUPE 2.0 16v, Byzanz, Sunroof, ABS
94L 80 16V ESTATE, Burgundy Met, 5 Spoke Alloys, E/Sunroof, E/Windows, ABS
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96N Audi A8 4.2 Quattro Sport Aluminium Silver, Anthracite Leather S/Seats, Electric Front + Rear Seat Pack, Climate, Solar Roof, Rear Blind, Twin Airbags, ABS, Twin Pane Glass, Bose Sound, 10CD, 18" A/W, 9,600 mls ... £POA
96N Audi A8 4.2 Quattro Ragussa Green, Ecru Leather Seats, Electric Front + Rear Seat Pack, Climate, Cruise, R/Blind, H/L/W, Walnut, Twin Pane Glass, Thru' Load, E/Sunroof, 10CD, Competition A/W, 7,600 mls ... £POA
96N Audi A8 3.7 Sport Emerald Green, Anthracite Leather, S/Seats, Electric Front Seats with Memory, Climate, Cruise, Solar Roof, Rear Blind, Bose Sound, H/L/W, R/Locking, 10CD, 18" A/W, 6,600 mls ... £POA
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95M Audi S2 6Sp Estate Volcano Black, Recaro S/Seats, 285 BHP Conversion, Aircon, Cruise, RS2 Bumper, E/S/Roof, 5000 Alarm, ABS, Airbag, R/Rails, T/Load, S/Susp, H/Seats, Split Rim A/W, 10,600 mls ... £POA
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95N Audi A6 2.0SE Auto Estate 96Mod Emerald Green, Climate, Airbag, ABS, ASC, R/Rails, EWx4, Alarm, A/W, 9,400 mls £21,495
94M Audi 2.0E Convertible 95Mod Ming Blue Pearl, Blue S/Seats, Blue P/Hood, ABS, Airbag, EWx4, CDL Alarm + Immobiliser, A/W, 9,800 mls ... £19,995
93K Audi 2.3E Convertible Brilliant Black, Black Leather S/Seats, Black Hood, ABS, Pro 10, EWx4, C/Locking, Alarm, 10 Spoke A/W, 25,300 mls ... £18,995
94M Audi 2.6E Coupe 95Mod Volcano Black Metallic, Anthracite Jacquard S/Seats, P/S/Roof, Airbag, ABS, EW, Alarm, CDx1, 10 Spoke A/W, 23,100 mls ... £17,650
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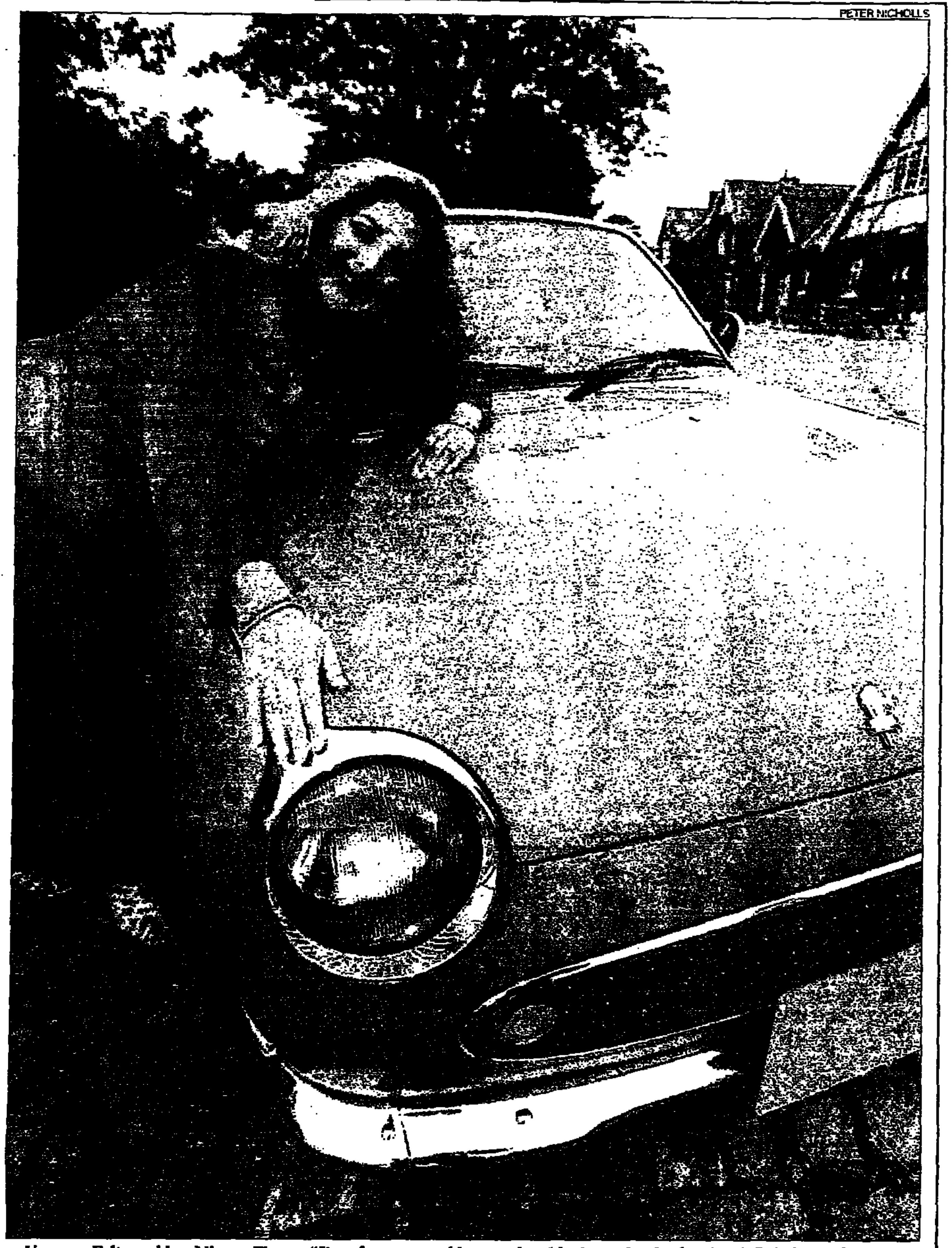
Quite simply, it's not British . . . and exotic rarity is the attraction for many car buyers

How you arrange a foreign love affair

Vanessa Feltz tells **Helen Mound** about the perfect Figaro in her life



Vanessa Feltz and her Nissan Figaro: "I'm often pursued by people with chequebooks, but it's definitely not for sale"

> 'If I had to consider something else, it would be the 22 bus'

When Vanessa Feltz was looking for a new car, she had no idea what she wanted. All she did know was the she didn't want what everyone else had. The television presenter says: "All my friends were driving BMWs and Range Rovers, but I thought they were just too obvious, too fast and too dull for me."

But as soon as she saw a picture of the Nissan Figaro, she knew that was what she was searching for. Unfortunately, she couldn't have one because Nissan does not sell the little retro-look car outside Japan, not officially anyway. But then Vanessa discovered there was a way to find the car of her dreams with just a little more effort than just wandering along to the local showrooms.

For she is one of thousands of British motorists who choose to buy a car through personal import rather than drive a run-of-the-mill model for sale in this country.

Foreign carmakers do not always send their most intriguing models to Britain, even though there is a dedicated band of buyers waiting to capture cars which often look individual yet do not cost any more than cars here. One example is the Figaro, a remarkable design planted on the chassis of an unremarkable Nissan Micra, although the white leather, art-deco interior comes complete with stereo and compact disc player.

Six years ago, Nissan only planned to make 20,000 but was overwhelmed by the demand from 350,000 potential buyers for the little cars with styling which harked back 50 years. In the end, they had to issue lottery tickets to narrow down the number of customers eligible to buy. However, a few have now found their way through the net and into the hands of willing sellers and agents now exporting the cars — costing between £16,000 and £22,000.

Just as well, because Vanessa's heart was set on one. "It's just so far-fetched, a lot of fun to drive and so different looking," she says. "I love it. If I had to consider something else, I think it would be the number 22 bus, because there isn't another car as perfect as this."

The Figaro is so popular, Vanessa describes it as her "mobile coffee morning". She adds: "It's a big problem if you've got spots or a bad hair day because people constantly stop you and ask questions about it. There's definitely no blending into the traffic."

Trimmed with white leather the Figaro is fitted with every possible luxury — "Except a Jacuzzi which is a great shame" — but she won't be selling it. "I'm often pursued by people with chequebooks, I get five or six offers for it a week, but it's definitely not for sale."

That level of interest probably indicates just how bored drivers become with their Escorts and Cavaliers — and why the personal importers seem to be thriving. Drivers go to them not necessarily to beat British prices, but to find cars they ordinarily could not get. So far this year, agents have imported more than 1,000 vehicles.

Simon Lerner of Intercar, import agents of specialist Japanese cars, says: "We sell to people who want a car that's a little bit different. But they can still find a local dealer who knows how to service it when it comes in."

Intercar's most popular imports are the Toyota Lexus Coupé and Nissan Skyline GT-R. The company also imports the Figaro.

Paul Linas of Eurolink, import agents of Japanese cars already in the West, particularly in European markets, admits that there is an enormous demand for unusual sporting and luxury cars. "When Honda stopped importing the Integra in the Eighties, we continued to bring it in and are still getting orders for it."

Eurolink can source most Japanese cars that meet British road requirements and take just three weeks to deliver because they come from closer to home, just across the Channel.

The Honda Beat, a miniature two-seater sports car to rival the Suzuki Cappuccino, can be imported for £8,300. The Nissan Sunny GTi-R, a Japanese equivalent of the Ford Escort Cosworth, can be found for £11,200. Used models imported by Nissan itself three years ago now sell for around £15,000.

As a rule, choosing a personal import to save money doesn't work. When the pound was strong a few years ago, thousands of British motorists went to Europe to buy left-hand drive Volkswagens, Mercedes-Benz and BMWs, believing they were getting a bargain by buying abroad. In fact, once they paid the ferry fares, hotel costs and equipped the new car with standard UK specifications — such as sunroofs and stereos — the savings were very small. Now the pound has weakened, the Europeans are coming here to buy.

But some prestige imports can be had cut-price. The Honda Legend four-door saloon sells in the UK for £32,995, but Eurolink imports the Japanese model for £29,650. A two-year-old Mazda MX-5 with 25,000 miles on the clock would sell here for around £13,000; Linas claims a personal import costs just £9,600.

And it's not just Japanese personal imports that are finding homes in the UK because American muscle cars are proving equally popular. The success of imported left-hand drive cars is evident from the number available on the UK's used car market. Despite some unscrupulous left-hand-drive dealers charging premiums, there's not much difference between second-hand values of left and right-hand drive cars.

Of course, personal imports have their headaches: choosing a car is the easy part with shipping, registering and taxes the complicated end of the deal unless you use a good agent who can overcome some problems such as paperwork and language barriers. Because they deal in bulk, they can negotiate better prices than an individual. However, the importer must have owned, or at least driven, the car in the country they are importing from, and that means going to the Continent or USA to collect it. Japanese imports are delivered to Holland or Belgium from where the official personal import can take place.

Although traditional car insurance firms load premiums on imported vehicles, Emma Kirkaldy of Privilege Insurance, specialists in covering unusual cars, says: "We don't penalise left-hand drive car owners." So once in the UK, personal importers no longer need to suffer at the hands of insurers.

And then it is pleasure all the way for the motorists who find the car that stands out from the crowd, like Vanessa with her Figaro, a car that tens of thousands of Japanese were dying for only to see it slip away . . . to a happy driver in England.

IMPORT FACTS

■ COST: Flights, food, hotels, car insurance in the country of origin, shipping costs, which can be anything from £1,000 upwards, 10 per cent customs duty added to the full cost of the car, including shipping, and 17.5 per cent VAT.

■ PAPERWORK: You need Form V55/5 from a licensing office plus Customs and Excise Certificate 386. If importing from within the EC, a VAT 414 form.

■ AGENTS: Intercar (0181 203 3399/8070) and Eurolink (01923-227122) for Japanese cars; David Boatwright Partnership (01376-552399) for US imports.

■ CARS: Daihatsu Mira — Y950,000 (£5,124) — turbo-charged microwave with every possible gadget.
Renault Twingo — FFr59,300 (£7,900) — French cult car that Renault deeply regrets not importing to the UK.
Nissan Skyline GT-R — Y5,290,000/£28,532 — Japanese supercar with ATTESA E-TS PRO and Super HICAS — whatever that is.
Dodge Ram — $13,938 (£8,432) — American muscle pick-up, very cheap, until you add shipping costs, 22 per cent import duty for commercial vehicles and 17.5 per cent VAT.

SUPERCAR FIND

Inseparable: Hussey and his Skyline

The only replacement Anthony Hussey would consider for his personal import is . . . another one. Even though it was launched in Japan in 1969, the acclaimed super saloon Nissan Skyline GT-R has never been imported to Britain, forcing Hussey, a director at Connolly, leather suppliers to the world's top carmakers, to import one from Japan. The 2.6-litre twin-turbocharged supercar, which holds the production car lap record at the Nurburgring circuit in Germany, has 370bhp, as powerful as Ferraris and Porsches.

He bought his car four years ago through an agent. The car was shipped from Japan to Guernsey, the whole operation taking less than a month. "When my cousin, Jonathan Connolly, went to Japan for a business meeting with Nissan I suggested he take a look at the Skyline as a possible company car," he says. "We ended up buying three, sold two, and later I bought another for myself. They're all trimmed in the finest Connolly leather, of course."

Hussey paid £32,000 for the car, which has now covered 95,000 miles. "It's the ideal practical bargain supercar. It's blindingly fast and wonderfully unobtrusive. I like the fact that no one knows what it is, so it doesn't attract much attention. I have no idea what I could replace it with. There's simply nothing to compare for performance, build quality and unobtrusiveness. I plan keeping it until I've done 150,000 miles, because it feels like it could last forever."

Vaughan Freeman looks at the overseas manufacturers who are in pole position on the UK sales grid

There's no place like home for importers

1 **Daewoo** (101 per cent growth)
2 **Alfa Romeo** (95 per cent)
3 **Chrysler** (82 per cent)
4 **Mazda** (46 per cent)
5 **Mitsubishi** (45 per cent)
6 **Volkswagen** (40 per cent)
7 **Saab** (27 per cent)
8 **Porsche** (26 per cent)
9 **Isuzu** (26 per cent)
10 **Seat** (24 per cent)

Six out of ten cars bought in Britain are now made abroad. Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders figures show almost 63 per cent of cars sold in August were imports, compared to 60 per cent for the same month last year.

The global car business means that cars with ostensibly British badges are actually made overseas, particularly Europe. Cars from the Continent account for half of all cars bought here, with big-selling names, such as the Ford Mondeo — made in Belgium — and the Vauxhall Corsa (Spain) leading the way. The rest come from Japan (just over 7 per cent), with cars from Eastern Europe taking 1.9 per cent, and "other countries", such as Daewoo and Hyundai from Korea, accounting for 3.5 per cent.

So who are the foreigners proving so successful at stealing car sales in Britain? Mitsubishi Motors for one. The Japanese company has just celebrated its 250,000th import, including its tough Range Rover-rivalling Shoguns, since it began selling cars here in 1974. That success has come despite an import agreement limiting the number of Japanese cars that can be sold in the UK. So far this year Mitsubishi has sold 12,287 cars, up more than 45 per cent on the 8,447 it sold in the same period last year to take its highest-ever slice of the UK market.

Chrysler of the US cannot sell cars fast enough. The company doubled Jeep sales in August to 3,043 from 1,589 for August 1995 and sales for the year so far total 8,163 compared to 4,486 in 1995.

Mazda has sold 18,504 cars in Britain this year, compared to 12,710 last, taking just over 1 per cent of total new sales. Such success is not enough for the hungry Japanese firm though, which plans to sell 25,000 next year and get to 40,000 by the turn of the century.

And it is not just bread-and-butter volume carmakers who have their eyes on the wallets of British motorists. More exotic manufacturers are eyeing the market avidly. Porsche is enjoying a record year, having sold 1,181 of its high-performance 911 cars so far this year compared to 938 in 1996 — despite a price range of £59,000 to £94,000. Porsche sales next year will be further enhanced with the arrival in January of its Boxster sports car.

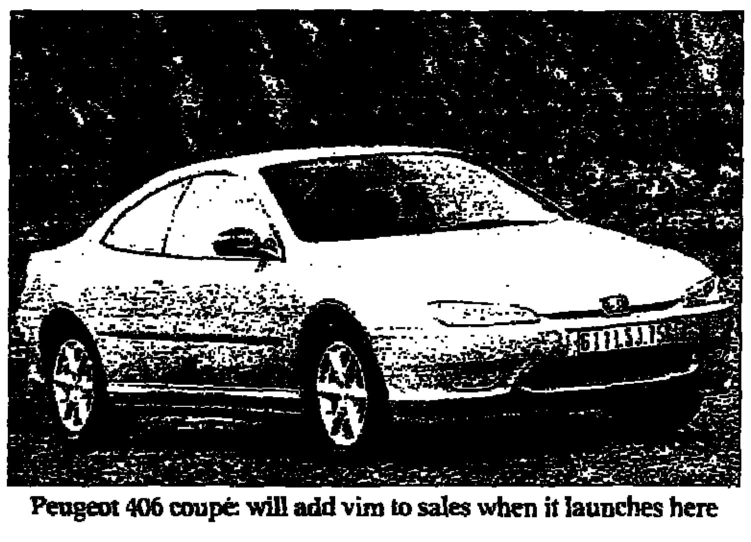
At the other end of the spectrum, Skoda, which launches its Octavia saloon in the UK in 18 months, also has plans to increase its dealer network, boosted by August sales of 3,407 compared to 3,059 last year.

But none can match Korean importer Daewoo, which so far this year has sold 16,200 cars, having only set up in Britain two years ago, putting it top of the growth league (above right).

Wherever you look, the foreigners have cause to celebrate. In August, Saab sales rose 21 per cent and Hyundai were up 25 per cent. It will not get any easier for the home-grown talent either. Fiat sales of 63,872 are up 18 per cent on last year and the Fiat Punto is doing only good to the Italian manufacturer's prestige. Meanwhile, the Italian carmaker's subsidiary, Alfa Romeo, has sold all of this year's allocation of 500 Spiders. French carmaker Peugeot will add vim to its sales when it launches its 406 coupé here, and VW, whose sales have rocketed 40 per cent this year, will get an added boost when its all-new Passat arrives.

The irony is that the UK motor industry includes Honda (in Swindon, Wiltshire), Toyota (in Burnaston, Derbyshire), Nissan (Washington, Tyne and Wear), Rover (owned by BMW of Germany), Peugeot (with a factory in Ryton, Coventry). All are selling more and more cars.

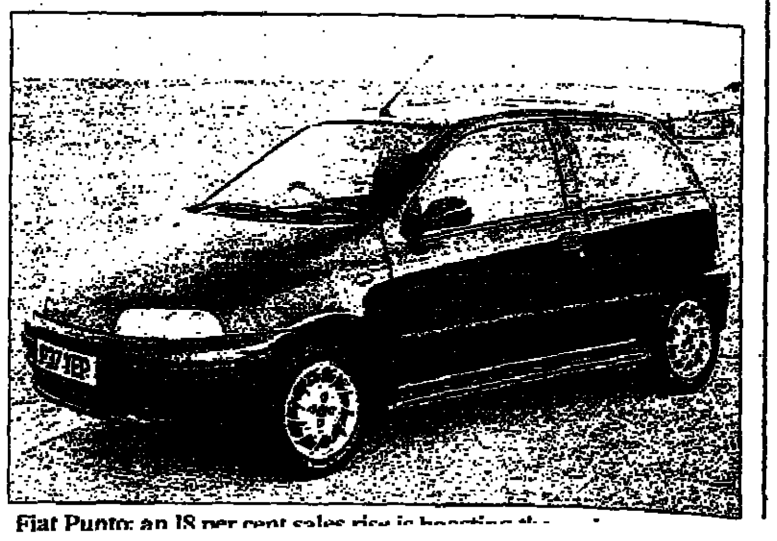
But while we buy foreign, more UK-built cars are selling abroad. The SMMT reports that UK motor manufacture rose by 13 per cent in August to total 81,889, the vast majority accounted by cars for export, up 54 per cent from 34,000 in August, 1995 to 52,398 a year later. But production of cars for home sales slumped 23 per cent.



Peugeot 406 coupé: will add vim to sales when it launches here

Alfa Romeo Spider: this year's 500 allocation is already a sell-out

Jeep Grand Cherokee: Chrysler has seen sales double in a year



Fiat Punto: an 18 per cent sales rise is boosting th

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94M	355 GTB Rosso	3T £ 88,995
94M	355 GTB Rosso	18T £ 84,995
93L	348 TB Rosso	12T £ 57,995
92K	348 TB	8T £ 55,995
92J	348 TS Rosso	14T £ 54,995
93K	348 TS Chiaro	21T £ 52,995
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95N	Alfa 146 1.7 16v, Dark Blue, ESR, ABS, PAS, Alloys	£10,995
95N	Alfa 145 1.6, Silver White, Alarm, ABS, PAS, EW, CL	£10,695
93K	Alfa 164 2.0 Lusso, Red, ESR, Alloys, PAS, Alarm	£8,595

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94M	Alfa 164 2.0 T/Spark Super, Red, Alloys, SR, ABS, CD	£10,995
96N	Alfa 146 1.6L, Met Blue, ABS	£10,995
95M	Alfa 164 2.0 T/Spark, Red, ABS, Air conditioning	£9,995

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95N	Alfa 155 2.5 V6, Alfa Red, Alloys, Sunroof	£14,995
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CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

ROADTEST

Safe ram on the brakes

The Seat Cordoba SX: solid, stable and sure-footed, it's fast in the country and comfortable driving in town traffic

Fuss free, my Seat Cordoba SX took me to the dentist and the supermarket, *writes Tim Jones.* Although I had done less than a mile, I was impressed by its solid feel. But then, nothing. The engine immobiliser had decided to cut in and the AA man could only tow it home.

There was nothing anyone could do — and my road test ground to a halt on day one. Fortunately, a replacement Cordoba behaved impeccably around Wales.

To see what the car could do, I let if off the leash and pushed petrol into its 1.6-litre engine. With 15-inch tyres sticking like glue to the road, my confidence grew with every twist and turn. Suddenly, an angry ram flew through a hole in a hedge. The ram will not appreciate it, but its life was saved by a set of anti-lock brakes which are outstanding for a car of this class and I believed the claim it could stop from 60mph in under three seconds.

The 500-mile round trip had provided an ideal counterpoint to a week when the Cordoba had been required to do no more than a daily 80-mile return journey into London through heavy commuter traffic. To thousands of drivers, this type of stop-start grind is the reality of most of their motoring, so comfort is a prime consideration. On that score, I had no complaints.

As important, two burly back seat passengers were impressed by the ample bottom and headroom which makes the Cordoba spacious and easy to ride in. And, unusually for its price range, the SX has standard fit airbags for both driver and front seat passenger.

What makes the car an attractive proposition is the quality build which signals its link with Volkswagen of Germany. It is constructed around a very rigid safety cage which gives it a solid, stable and sure-footed feel.

SEAT CORDOBA SX

Engine: Four-cylinder, eight-valve 1.6-litre producing 100 brake horse power at peak 5,800rpm, through five-speed manual gearbox and front wheels.

Performance: 0-62mph in 10.8 seconds, top speed 116mph. Fuel economy 30mpg in town, 48.7mpg at constant 56mph, 36.7mpg at constant 75mph.

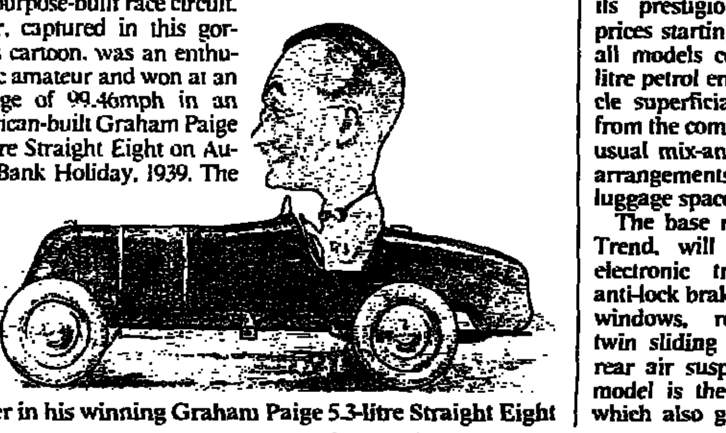
Equipment: Power steering, sunroof, driver and passenger airbag, anti-lock brakes, remote central locking, electric front windows, six-speaker stereo.

Protection: Three-year/unlimited mileage warranty, six-year anti-corrosion warranty, three years free AA cover.

Price: £12,595.

Last round for the Baker

■ AS A racer, G. L. Baker's record is unremarkable among the great names, except that he won the last race at Brooklands, the world's first purpose-built race circuit. Baker, captured in this gorgeous cartoon, was an enthusiastic amateur and won at an average of 99.46mph in an American-built Graham Paige 5.3-litre Straight Eight on August Bank Holiday, 1939. The Brooklands Cup he won was acquired by Gallaher, the tobacco firm, which has just donated it to the circuit museum to remember the race.



Baker in his winning Graham Paige 5.3-litre Straight Eight

FORECOURT

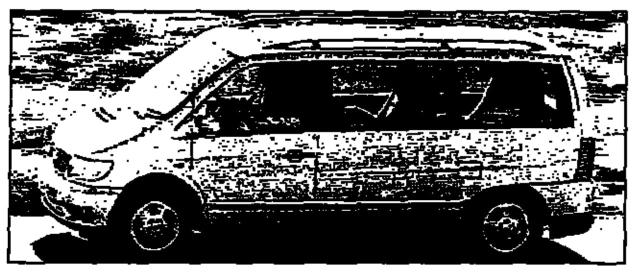
Trendy it isn't

■ MERCEDES has pitched its new V-class people carrier at premium prices when it arrives in Britain in November. But the German firm will find that there is stiff opposition out there.

It is obviously banking on its prestigious name with prices starting at £21,750 and all models coming with 2.3-litre petrol engines. The vehicle superficially differs little from the competition with the usual mix-and-match seating arrangements, table tops and luggage space.

The base model, the V230 Trend, will have standard electronic traction control, anti-lock brakes, electric front windows, remote locking, twin sliding side doors and rear air suspension. Middle model is the V230 Fashion, which also gets rear clothes hooks, colour co-ordinated gear lever ... and, er, a compendium of games and an umbrella. The extras add £200 to the price. Top-level V230 Ambiente has a leather interior, fridge, metallic paint, alloy wheels and outside temperature gauge for those of you unable to work out whether it is a warm or cold day.

Price: £24,650. Carmart says nothing — except that a bells-and-whistles, everything on it Ford Galaxy 2.8 Ghia has a sticker price of £21,500 before you start negotiating.

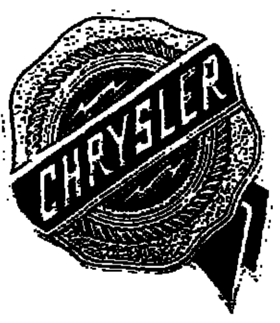


Mercedes V230: is the price really worth the prestige?

SPARE PARTS

What can a Jag swallow?

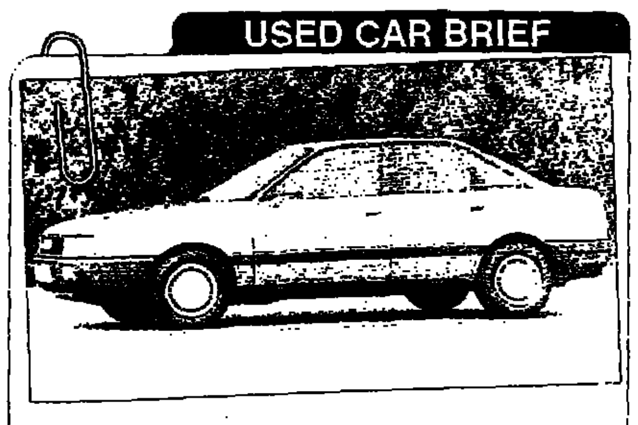
■ YEARS of development, thousands of hours of agonising over engines and gearboxes and what did the boss ask? Can I get a golf bag and handcart in the boot? Bob Dover, chief programme engineer for Jaguar's new XK8 sports cars, had to persuade Red Poling, then worldwide head of Ford, to finance the car. After a long and convincing presentation, Poling simply asked if the XK8 passed the golf test, so Dover carried the clubs and the cart to show him. The XK8 is launched next month and looks set for critical acclaim. Road test, details and prices next week.



■ AFTER 34 years, Chrysler is going back to the future by adopting its old "Gold Seal" badge. The company abandoned it for the now familiar Pentastar, but the Americans have decided to go back to the badge introduced by Walter P. Chrysler in 1924.

■ *Renault has given its ailing Safrane range a facelift. Though popular in Europe, UK buyers have been unconvinced, so the car gets a more distinctive front end, new engines and more equipment. Details will be announced during next month's British International Motor Show.*

USED CAR BRIEF



AUDI 80 V6 2.6

On the basis, perhaps, that more is better, five cylinders became six with the introduction of the 2.6-litre, 150brake horse power V6 engine to the Audi 80 range in 1992. Out went the five-cylinder 2.3-litre engine and in came the six-pot. Smooth and powerful, the V6 could take the car to 128mph and reach 60mph from a standstill in under 10 seconds. With its 'slippery shape', the 80 was the first mass-produced car to use a fully galvanised steel body for rust resistance, giving Audi the confidence to offer a 10-year bodywork guarantee.

✓ **GOOD NEWS**
Long (10,000-mile) service intervals plus 10-year anti-perforation guarantee give peace of mind. Anti-lock braking is standard and safety features either the now discontinued Audi Procon-Ten system, which pulls steering column away from driver, or traditional airbags.

⊘ **BAD NEWS**
Gearshift on the manual can seem heavy and notchy and the suspension, in classic rigorous German style, might seem a little harsh for UK tastes. Both are worth coming to terms with however, since the reward is a superbly engineered, and capable, saloon

LOOK FOR
Botched body repairs carried out by non-Audi dealers will invalidate the 10-year body warranty so check the car's history and the condition of the body carefully. Fuel consumption (in the low 20 miles to the gallon range) can be disheartening and service costs relatively costly.

AVOID
High price cars. Audis sold through the franchised dealer network do not come cheap. Search out good quality examples through private purchase, having ensured the car is supported by a full service history or at the very least, seek evidence of care and spending on service and maintenance.

△ **SAFETY RATING**
One of the safest upper/medium sized cars according to the Department of Transport, on a par with the Mercedes 190, Ford Mondeo and BMW 3-series, and rated better than the Volvo 400, Peugeot 405 or Nissan Primera.

INSURANCE
Costs a 55-year-old professional living in Winchester, with no claims, £275-a-year fully comp for a 1992 80 2.6E V6. A 22-year old male, living in South London with a year's no claims, pays £2,318 a year fully comp and a female £1,716. *(AA Insurance 0800 444777)*

REPLACEMENT PARTS
(Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £225; full exhaust £325; catalytic converter £500; rear dampers (pair) £140; radiator £145; front brakepads (pair) £70; alternator £290; starter motor £130; tyre £50 to £70.

£ **PRICES**
Around £10,000 for a 1992 K-reg 80 2.6E V6 saloon, £13,000 for a 1994 L-reg 2.6E V6, £12,500 for a 1993 L-reg 2.6E with automatic transmission, £14,200 for a 1994 L-reg 2.6E SE and £14,750 for a 1994 L-reg 2.6E SE Automatic.

OVERALL
The Audi 80 is a well-built, solid car, but the power of the V6, an engine so flexible that overtaking rarely needs a change down, alters its character entirely. To all intents and purposes rust-proof, both body and engine make for longevity. Drawbacks are fuel consumption and servicing costs but the budget needed reflects the fact that this car is closer to a BMW or a Mercedes than a Ford or Vauxhall.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

DAIMLER 6.
4.0, new shape, 94M, 1 own, immac, 28,000m, Blue. o/meal int. £34,000.
01525 280218. No trade.

DAIMLER Double 6
1986 C reg, 82k miles, Metallic Blue, FSH (autocats), recent new tyres, radiator, exhaust pipes, alternator, a/c etc. Beautiful condition. £4,500.
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DAIMLER Sovereign 4.0 Auto, 1990, Black, Full Magnolia hide, 70,000 miles, all extras, sunroof, A/C, Picnic tables, Taxed & MOT'd, excellent cond, £6,995 0131 539 9115 T

XJ12 5.3C. Cab. 1978. Auto. Met Blue. Tan Hide. 42Kmls. A/C. VGC. £10,990. Betwin Motors 01491 872409/ 0402 489792

XJS V12 1986 10,000 genuine mileage, Sebring red / black interior, dry stored in winter. Mint cond. POA. 01984 623629

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XJS 3.6
Automatic
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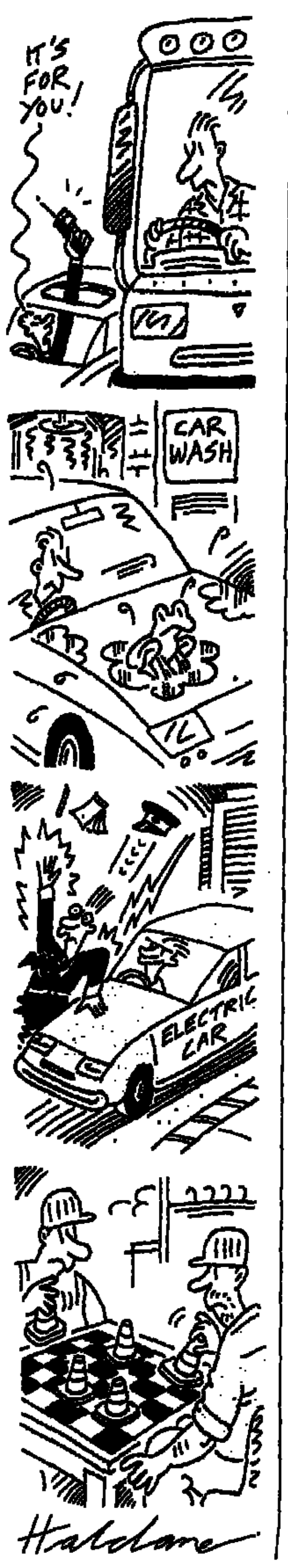

Racing commentator Peter O'Sullevan tells **Andrew Pierce** how a Jag used to be written into his contract

An expert on horse power

STEERING COLUMN

MARTIN BEDDALL

O'Sullevan and his Mercedes coupé:"I prefer it now because when you get a bit older it acts as an orthopaedic support"

Peter O'Sullevan will be in his usual commentary position today for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes in the Festival of British Racing at Ascot, the richest race meeting of the year. Next year, he will celebrate his 50th Grand National for the BBC.

O'Sullevan works tirelessly for charities and received the Help the Aged's Hall of Fame Award. His autobiography, *Calling the Horses*, has been released as an audio book by Hodder & Stoughton.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was brought up by indulgent grandparents who had a house in Gatton Park estate near Reigate. There was ample scope to drive as the grounds were several hundred acres. They had a nice chauffeur who taught me the basics in a marvellous old car called Minerva when I was nine. It was so big it had a partition between the chauffeur and passenger, who spoke to the driver through a tube-type telephone.

What was your first car?

On my 17th birthday, my grandmother presented me with a red Morris Eight two-seater coupé. I have never forgotten the number plate: RD 6647.

What car do you drive now and why?

A Mercedes 300C coupé. After growing out of the Morris Eight category, I settled down with Jaguars for 25 years. It was a stipulation of my contract with the *Daily Express*.

Do you like driving?

Thankfully, yes. For 40 years, I averaged 45,000 miles a year and from 1945 to 1985, I completed 1.8 million miles.

What is your most hated car?

The least successful I had was an Atlantic 90, manufactured by Austin in the early 1950s. It was like a pre-war Aston Martin without the class. It overheated under the bonnet and in the car. It was traumatic. We regularly overheated crossing the Saint Blon between Switzerland and Italy.

What is your dream car?

The Jaguar satisifed all my dreams of a car as a precision instrument. When I left the newspaper I was surprised how much it cost to keep it running. I prefer Mercedes now because when you get a bit older it acts as an orthopaedic support. When I drove the Jaguar to Gstaad I used to feel stiff. When I get out of the Mercedes I don't.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Impatience, which is against my nature. I become restless. I like to try to improve my French by listening to French stations. I have to guard against it leading me into disastrous situations. It has been known for me to drive straight into a right-hand lane after two hours listening to French radio.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they hog the overtaking lane. I am a fast driver and I am sure they refuse to budge because they know I am exceeding the lawful limit.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

In 1938 I took the Morris Eight, with a schoolfriend to Europe, and covered 3,300 miles and 10 countries in 13 days. Having been to the Hague and Paris we had only one setback with the car. Arriving in Venice I kept a log of how many times we filled up and we arrived in Venice late in the evening. We had a puncture, the car was dirty, and a leaf spring broke. The bill was 7s 6d (37.5p).

Have you ever had points on your licence?

I'm afraid so: for exceeding the speed limit. Surprise, surprise.

What do you listen to in the car?

Live programmes. Sometimes jazz.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Raise the speed limit on motorways. I would make it 90mph.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

I am paranoid about animals being exploited for promotional purposes. I hate the one which uses a tiger in a cage about the size of a matchbox. I will not reveal the name of the car.

DR DASHBOARD

Red is dead as sports cars go all muted

Q ***I'm astonished to read about all these people ordering blue Ferraris. Is it true that the big red sports car is dead?***

A I think it's a bit early for the medical profession to pronounce that life is extinct, but all the evidence shows a move away from the bright towards darker colours.

Q **Is this trend restricted to Ferraris or does it cover other makes of sports cars as well?**

A It applies across the board. Porsche has done some of the most detailed research. In its British sales over the last ten years, red has plummeted from first to eleventh place, behind blue, silver and even black. In 1985 more than a quarter of customers ordered a red Porsche, 19.2 per cent white and 10.3 per cent black. Last year more than half of all Porsches sold were finished in a more temperate "midnight blue" and only 1 per cent were sold in "guards red". Lamborghini, incidentally, didn't sell a single red Diablo last year.

Q **But surely if you can afford a nice racy sports car you want to show off, put it about a bit?**

A That's the old-fashioned view. For years sports car buyers have been portrayed as film producers, rock stars, red hot Mediterranean lovers and middle-aged men battling with the menopause. The theory was that they saw the big red sports car as a symbol of sexual prowess.

Q **A psycho-analyst could have a field day with this. If that's not the case any more, then who is buying sports cars now?**

A In the 1980s a lot of people who bought these cars were youngsters making big money in the City. Now the main buyers are distinctly more middle-aged. The average age of an MGF buyer, for example is 47.

Q **Isn't that just the age when a lot of men want to demonstrate their . . . er . . . masculinity?**

A It seems the shape of the car is enough to fulfil that need. It's not politically correct to flaunt your wealth in the 1990s, so the rich like to be more discreet now.

Q **But I thought some sports car makers were famous for their outlandish colours. Have they gone, too?**

A I'm afraid so. TVR used to specialise in zany colours such as gold and pink. The most popular colour for the Chimaera and more potent Griffith last year was dark blue.

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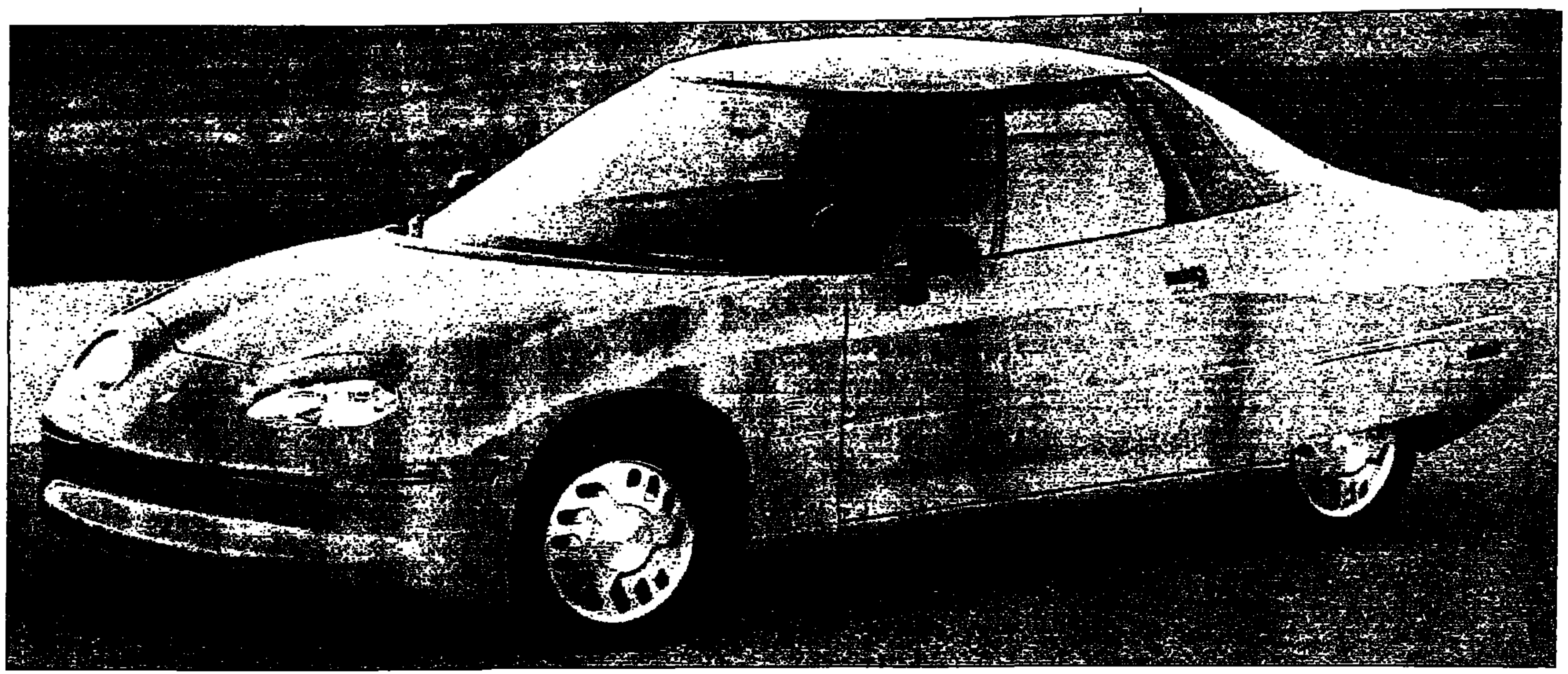
So far, electric cars have stayed in the laboratory, but one is now on sale. **Stuart Birch** reports from America

GM plugs into the forecourt



The EV1: for the same price — $35,000 — you could buy a Cadillac, but the image states that its owner is not merely seriously successful but is also environmentally responsible

A lightweight charger will give you a few extra miles

GENERAL MOTORS EV1

Engine: Three-phase AC motor, 137bhp driving front wheels. No routine maintenance for 100,000 miles.

Performance: 0-60mph in 8.7 seconds, maximum speed (electronically governed) 80mph.

Range: From 70 to 90 miles, depending on terrain and driving style.

Equipment: Air-conditioning, cabin pre-conditioning; Galileo brake-by-wire with antilock; high-pressure tyres; electro-hydraulic steering; heated windscreen; projector beam headlamps; portable battery charger; keypad security system; radio/casette/CD system.

Price: Approx $35,000 (£22,600).

The instruction is certainly go — quickly and to the accompaniment of a finely modulated whirr like a lift rising to the penthouse suite. The driving position is low and snug, the steering wheel near-vertical, as it should be in a two-seat sports coupé. The cockpit looks as if the designer of the Starship Enterprise might have had an intergalactic hand in its creation.

But this is a sports car with a very big difference: it is all about amps and watts. I am tucked inside a General Motors EV1 on a proving ground in North Michigan, USA. EV1 is the very latest thing in electric car design. Now, after years of preparation and development involving hundreds of test drivers, it is showroom ready.

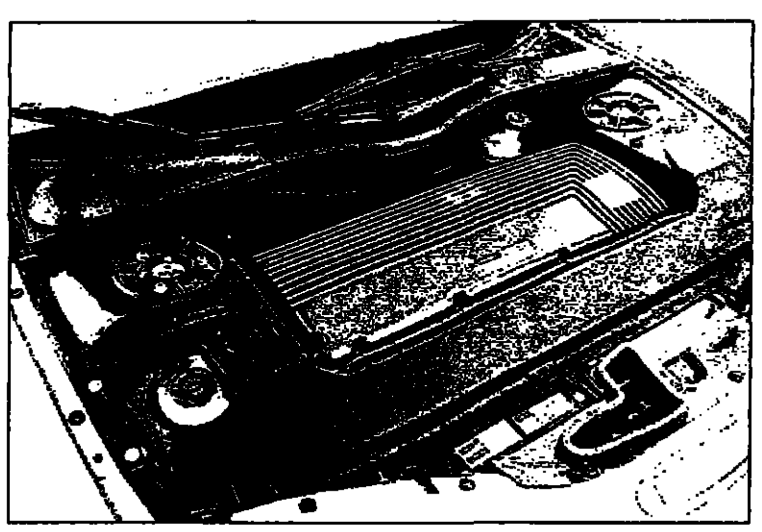
On sale in the USA this month, it is arguably the world's most serious electric car. It certainly has a serious price: around $35,000, the sort of money that will buy the latest Cadillac. The EV1's image, though, states that its owner is not merely seriously successful but is environmentally responsible, able to appreciate an unusual set of wheels and enjoys moving right along when the opportunity presents itself. For EV1 whispers its way to 60mph in under nine seconds, and although its top speed is governed to 80mph, throw away the little speed governing gizmo, tweak the machine a little and this current affair could take itself almost 25 per cent of the way towards *the sound barrier*. Not bad for battery power.

EV1's looks are a strange mix. At the rear there is a hint of the 1970s Maserati-engined Citroën SM, while the front could be the work of any Japanese car company's design team on a day when all they really want to do is go home. Surely those who designed the back of the car can never have met those who did the front; not even in the middle.

According to your taste, the result is either mildly amusing or refreshingly different from most other things on the road. It is undeniably aerodynamic, taking top honours for a production car with a drag co-efficent of 0.19. Anything from 0.25 to 0.30 is regarded as exceptionally good.

Yet this could be the shape of things to come: technically if not aesthetically. GM has spent a long time, a lot of trouble and 350 million US greenbacks on getting EV1 to market. Delphi Automotive Systems and Delco Electronics, both part of GM, played a major role in its creation and development of its mature technological capability.

EV1 started life in 1990 as the Impact, a high-speed demonstration of just what an electric car could be given the chance. Since then, it has been changed and developed in almost every technical detail. Now it is emerging as EV1 with a "thinking" brake-by-wire system and power-saving electro-hydraulic steering.



In city traffic, you can expect about 70 miles from the power pack

To drive, the EV1 feels perky, responsive and secure, although not quite as perky as the specially prepared Impact prototype which reached 183mph two years ago at Fort Stockton, Texas — a new record for an electric car.

Despite its quirky looks (the rear is narrower than the front) the near-production car I tried proved simple to drive, and apart from the lack of engine noise could have been a conventional American or even European sports coupé. The Delphi Galileo ABS brake system has a microprocessor which responds with precision to how much braking the driver requires. In use it feels efficient, coping with ultra-slippery surfaces with aplomb.

Because it must carry 25 heavy lead acid batteries to power its 102Kw motor, GM engineers had to save every ounce of weight possible. EV1 has a composite plastic body, the *suspension uses aluminium and* composite components, and even the seats use lightweight magnesium and aluminium.

But EV1 has not been able to overcome one little problem which besets electric cars: it doesn't go very far before it needs a power fix. A *petrol gauge-style instrument shows* how much "juice" is left: in city traffic expect about 70 miles, out of town about 90. Drive it like a sports car, using that rapid 0-60 take-off, and the power will go down even more quickly. It carries a lightweight charger in the boot as an emergency to give a few miles if you're caught short of amps.

Just how successful EV1 is likely to be is impossible to tell. It will only be when the initial interest has subsided that this acceptability can be clearly gauged. GM is positioning for the future.

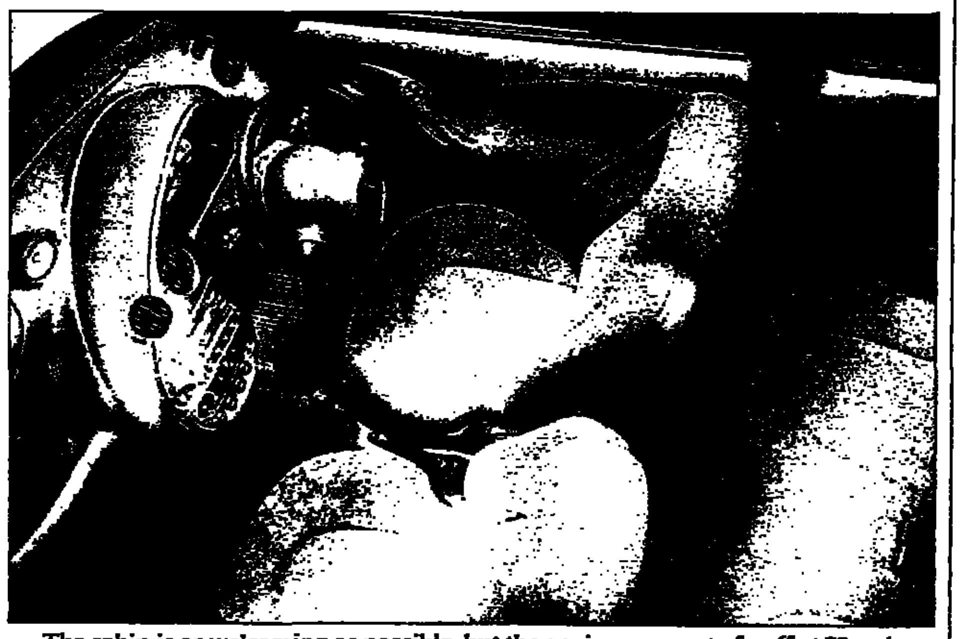
The long-awaited "battery breakthrough" (now a tired cliché) providing the sort of performance, range and "refuelling" package to bear some comparison to a production car internal combustion engine may be just an engineer's dream. But if it does happen, GM, with an established market position, should be scooping up the profits.

Meanwhile, the EV1 is already going boldly forth to showrooms in Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Tucson — warm places where battery power lasts longer.

"It's time to get electric vehicles out of the lab, into the showroom and on to the road," said GM chairman John F. Smith Jnr, announcing that the company would be the first major carmaker in modern times to market specifically designed electric vehicles to the public.

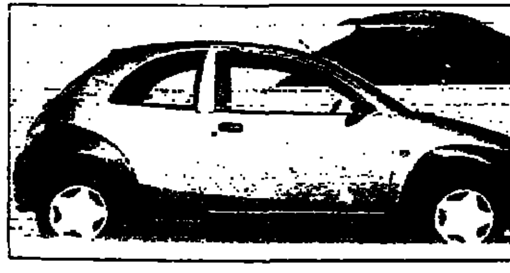
A revolution on hold

Ford's Ka may be cute, but **Kevin Eason** has doubts about it being radical enough



The cabin is as welcoming as possible, but the engine runs out of puff at 70mph

FORD KA



Engine: Four-cylinder 1.3-litre Endura-E producing 59 brake horsepower driving front wheels.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.8 seconds (14.5 seconds power steering version), top speed 96mph. Fuel economy: 47.9mpg on combined town and motorway driving (42.2mpg, power steering version).

Equipment: Driver's airbag, removable dashboard storage container, lights on warning buzzer.

Price: About £7,000 for the basic model.

I walked around it, shook it, was even tempted to lick it, because the Ford Ka slightly baffled me. It is the Brave New World of motoring, if you believe the inordinate hype which surrounds the launch of Ford's smallest model since the Model T.

And it's easy to be carried away by a car that looks so cute. Ford's executives are right: there is nothing like it on the roads. Like or loathe those swooping curves and sawn-off lamps, everything else looks bland by comparison.

The interior is the best thing in the marketplace right now. It seems that Ford's design team in Dunton, Essex thought hard about every contour on the door handles and switches, the siting of every dial and the colour coordinates to make the cabin as welcoming as possible. And the stereo is wonderful: it sounds great and even your daft old grandmother could hit the large format buttons without being baffled.

Front seats are comfy and there is plenty of headroom, although there are only two seats in the rear and six-footers will find it cramped. If you are planning to use the Ka to go to Sainsbury's, keep shopping down to a trip to the deli counter: the boot will burst at the seams if you load it with the weekly groceries.

The drive is terrific too, Ka living up to the Ford billing as neat and nimble, cornering convincingly and stopping surefootedly. Less enjoyable though is motorway driving when the 1.3-litre Endura-E engine sounds stressed and runs out of puff at 70mph. Hit a hill even at speed and the Ka feels as though it is running against a Force Nine head-wind, losing momentum.

However, Ford believes the key issue to be simplicity

for years about the fact that carmakers baffle buyers with their immense range of options. So the Ka comes in two versions only: the Ka and Ka2. Both have the same body shape, same engine, gearbox, interior basic equipment, and choice of seven colours. Ka2 though gets power steering, central locking, powered front windows and better adjustment for the driver's seat. If you want anything else, such as air-conditioning, it's an

Ford expects to sell as many as 20,000 a year in Britain although Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, confessed even he was not sure whether the car will catch on. For will the Ka become a cult like the Mini, or is it just another new car although in clever clothing? The temptation provoked by that bodywork is to think that the Ka is a revolution in car design.

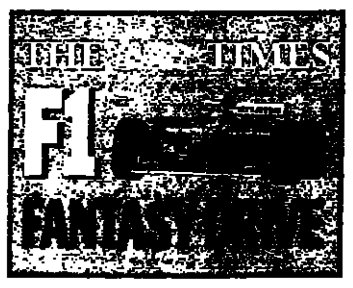
Maybe it depends on where you stand, how hard you prepared to lick it to discover how different it is to the competition. Ford says there isn't any, and the Ka stands alone in a class for small cars with big car comforts. True, it is about 500mm shorter than obvious rivals such as the Citroën Saxo and Peugeot 106, although the Fiat Cinquecento is the tiniest of them all.

When Ford says it is offering simplicity, doesn't that mean there is just less of everything? Big car virtues are things like power steering and electrical bits and pieces — equipment missing from the basic Ka and only available on Ka2. Do other carmakers really not offer those options on their models? Surely they do.

Price will be crucial and Ford will have to beat its target of £7,000 or buyers might as well stick with the extra room in the superminis. Otherwise Ford will have to make Ka a victory for hype over reality, shrouding the truth that this is a very pleasant and pretty car with hyperbole and claims that here we have the true mini car for the next century.

No we don't: not until Ford puts an engine in it that does 100 miles to the gallon, or an electric motor that can make Ka cruise for 300 miles without charging. Now that would be a revolution for the next

F1 Fantasy Drive update



Below we print the results of last week's Grand Prix in Portugal, plus the cumulative points in each category for the 14 races in our fantasy game so far. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we print the latest positions at the top of our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot which shows the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows David Rokov is still holding on at the top with 7,970 points.

Our 14th race winner for the performance of his team in the Portuguese Grand Prix is Steve Frankland of Northampton, whose team, Johnnie Oney, scored 710 points. He wins a trip for two to the next year's British Grand Prix. He was selected at random from 49 managers who each scored 710 points.

TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE PORTUGUESE GP

	Last race points	Total Fantasy points
Group A		
01 M Schumacher	108	1086
02 J Alesi	105	1290
03 D Hill	109	1203
Group B		
04 G Berger	101	1008
05 E Irvine	104	766
06 J Villeneuve	112	1345
Group C		
07 D Coulthard	89	1031
08 M Hakkinen	66	1234
09 H-H Frentzen	105	889
Group D		
10 M Brundle	95	952
11 R Barrichello	53	1083
12 J Herbert	103	929
Group E		
13 M Salo	93	858
14 P Lamy	81	798
15 P Diniz	49	824
Group F		
16 U Katayama	90	693
17 J Verstappen	52	590
18 O Panis	101	973
Group G		
19 G Fisichella*	0	377
20 R Rosset	87	737
Group H		
21 L Badoer	0	365
22 A Montermini	0	167

**Replaces T Marques*

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the transfer period — more than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

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HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS AT ESTORIL

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: D Hill 20 points; J Villeneuve 19; J Alesi 18; M Schumacher 17; G Berger 16; E Irvine 15; M Hakkinen 14; D Coulthard 13; R Barrichello 12; M Brundle 11; H-H Frentzen 10; J Herbert 9; M Salo 8; U Katayama 7; O Panis 6; J Verstappen 5; R Rosset 4; P Diniz 3; P Lamy 2.

Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix: J Villeneuve 20 points; D Hill 19; M Schumacher 18; J Alesi 17; E Irvine 16; G Berger 15; H-H Frentzen 14; J Herbert 13; M Brundle 12; O Panis 11; M Salo 10; U Katayama 9; D Coulthard 8; R Rosset 7; P Lamy 5. (only fifteen eligible drivers finished)

Lap points one point for each lap completed: J Villeneuve 70 points; D Hill 70; M Schumacher 70; J Alesi 70; E Irvine 70; G Berger 70; H-H Frentzen 69; J Herbert 69; M Brundle 69; O Panis 69; M Salo 69; U Katayama 68; D Coulthard 68; R Rosset 67; P Lamy 65; M Hakkinen 52; J Verstappen 47; P Diniz 46; R Barrichello 41.

Improved position points three points for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position: O Panis 15 points; H-H Frentzen 12; J Herbert 12; P Lamy 9; R Rosset 9; M Salo 6; U Katayama 6; M Schumacher 3; E Irvine 3; J Villeneuve 3; M Brundle 3.

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 14 RACES

01	7,970	RKV16	D Rokov
02	7,931	Aces	D Maynor
03	7,920	J Hunt U	J Hunt
04	7,896	Brothers Hotshots	W Lemon
05	7,894	KO16	D Rokov
06	7,885	Scab Car	R Howells
06	7,885	The Great 8	M Neathan
06	7,885	Phoney	D Park
06	7,885	Boy Racer 7	J Moore
06	7,885	The Simpletons	M Sim
06	7,885	Cowgirls Racing	R Wheeler
06	7,885	Richie's Terrors	J Richardson
06	7,885	Chicken Roosters	S Maurice
06	7,885	Dream Team 8	D Springate
15	7,852	Locust	C Dare
16	7,839	Del Wall	K Walton
17	7,802	Racing Sheep	S Kempton
18	7,801	New Cross Wonders	D Stroud

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Portuguese Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday October 16 after the Japanese Grand Prix.

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FRC 87
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GD 6193
GDB 341
GFB 367
GJ 4944
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GS 9247
GSH 92
487 GUY
HC 6494
HD 1501
HEK 88
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HJB 527
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IT 396
JAA 85

JAC 140
JAL 254
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JDK 856
JDR 430
JEF 834
JEK 474
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JFD 2555
JFS 398
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5728 JH
JHV 525
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A1 JRK
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KTS 14
LB 923
LEX 7
62 LJ
LJK 522
A11 LOR
332 LOV
3 LT
LUX 829
MAA 570
332 MAF
MCS 822
MEC 155

7177 MG
6889 MK
3664 ML
703 MMG
MMW 93
MO 6154
155 MPB
MR 9079
MRD 417
MRM 269
MRT 672
MSA 382
MSK 114
MSX 1
MT 4073
BIG MYK
NAT 261
1165 NE
NG 5031
A11 NJH
NL 5079
NM J1
NN 2287
896 NRB
NT 6967
961 NW

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PAD 11E
PAR 1N
PBK 111
PCS 656
PD 279
PFM 891
114 PG
9827 PH
6769 PL
PLC 161
PR 3783
999 PTD
PY 755
2589 RA
591 RAF
RAH 171
P11 RAL
RB 7167
146 RBB
858 RBM
RCD 223
RCR 155
RE 6256

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2520 RH
RJR 971
RKW 481
RL 9213
93 RM
RN 9477
RMR 8
K11 ROY
RP 6193
RPL 895
RPW 422
RR 3172
RSK 106
RT 597
283 RTB
37 RTW
RWH 783
S 101
7 SD
241 SAF
SBC 293
SC 3298
SCH 438
SCJ 109
SDG 712

7968 SF
SHP 89
SL 9997
SMB 748
S OS
4759 SP
SPD 403
8281 SR
SRK 761
785 SRT
SY 4961
TBK 1
TBP 15
TED 934
TDH 91
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21 A
16 AA
15 AB
2 ABA
111 AC
1 ACM
12 AD
ADW 1N
1 AEG
1 AEM
1 AES
111 AF
55 AG
18 AJ
4 AJM
15 AJS
60 AK
11 AKS
555 AL
ALD 1E
1 ALS
22 AM
61 AN
11 AND
ANG 11E
41 ANS
12 AP
APR 11L
3 AR
ARR 1E
ARW 1N
55 AS
2 ASB
11 AV
21 AW
15 AY
A740 BMW
A911 CAR
13 B
16 BA
BAB 1R
BAH 11A
11 BB
14 BC
2 BCS
100 BEN
BF 5
123 BG
556 BH
33 BJ
2 BJS
13 BK
18 BL
2 BLS
30 BM
999 BP
40 BR
13 BS
15 BT
10 BV
17 BW
B1 TTY
B1 XBY
8777 JET
40 C
14 CA
CAS 5
1 CAV
1 CAW
13 CB
1 CBA
1 CBG
CBS 2

17 CC
1 CCP
1 CCS
123 CD
1 CDB
1 CDK
1 CDP
1 CDS
33 CE
1 CEE
1 CET
12 CF
1 CFE
1 CFN
55 CG
1 CGL
44 CH
1 CHB
1 CHL
1 CHM
1 CHS
25 CI
1 CJE
17 CK
1 CKY
50 CL
22 CM
20 CN
1 CNS
12 CO
COY 1E
55 CP
1 CPM
200 CR
1 CRG
17 CS
1 CSW
15 CT
8 CU
15 CV
70 CW
100 DA
DAR 10N
123 DB
DBS 2
321 DC
2 DCM
10 DD
1 DDS
19 DE
66 DEB
1 DEK
DEL 1N
1 DEP
20 DF
111 DG
222 DH
1 DHL
24 DJ
2 DJP
200 DK
1 DKS
30 DL
17 DM
111 DMS
15 DN
1 DNS
70 DO
44 DR
DRO 1D
2 DRS
19 DS
1 DSR

1 DSW
1000 DT
1 DTK
DUN 10N
DUR 1C
21 DV
500 DW
1 DWG
2 DWS
15 DY
D1 DON
D1 LKS
D1 NSY
D1 RTS
D11 XON
10 E
55 EA
25 EB
40 EC
50 ED
EDR 1S
EDS 2
20 EE
123 EF
14 EG
10 EH
17 EJ
16 EK
100 EL
ELR 1N
ELV 1E
50 EM
21 EN
11 EO
21 EP
123 ER
50 ES
ESM 1E
111 ET
E1 MER
E1 MES
E1 WEN
E11 AMS
E320 AMG
E36 AMG
15 FA
FAS 5
200 FB
111 FC
9 FD
21 FE
FEL 11X
FEM 1
1 FES
30 FF
1111 FG
11 FH
21 FJ
10 FK
15 FL
100 FM
21 FN
10 FO
FOM 1N
99 FP
17 FR
44 FT
F1 ACK
F1 EGG
F1 SAR
F11 NCH
F355 RED
13 G

50 GA
GAD 1E
GAD 1T
GAG 1E
13 GB
21 GC
20 GD
111 GE
1 GEJ
GEM 5
321 GF
70 GG
200 GH
14 GJ
18 GK
19 GL
1 GLJ
222 GM
17 GN
111 GO
80 GP
2 GPS
44 GR
30 GS
30 GT
2 GTS
17 GW
G1 EED
G1 NDA
G1 PSM
G10 RGY
G11 LLS
15 H
5 HA
HAD 10W
HAF 1S
HAN 11F
HAV 1L
HAV 1S
HAY 10R
321 HB
1234 HC
15 HD
999 HE
111 HF
16 HG
1 HGM
17 HH
20 HJ
1 HJP
1 HKS
111 HL
1 HLS
16 HM
1 HMW
9 HN
HOG 4
1 HPM
16 HR
30 HS
1 HSR
1 HSW
911 HT
4 HU
HUG 1L
111 HW
111 HY
H1 LUX
20 J
786 JA
321 JAG
JAL 1M
JAM 11L

31 JAN
2 JAP
JAS 5
14 JB
55 JC
7 JCB
123 JD
50 JE
55 JEF
JEM 4
44 JEN
15 JES
911 JET
1 JEY
123 JF
1 JFP
2222 JG
15 JJ
1 JJK
22 JK
200 JL
1 JU
321 JM

KEN 10N
45 KEN
KEW 1N
1 KFS
4321 KG
1 KHF
17 KJ
1 KJS
66 KK
55 KL
1 KLS
16 KN
1 KOS
1 KPS
1 KRN
40 KS
321 KT
9999 KY
16 L
13 LA
1 LAJ
15 LAN
17 LB

4 LV
13 LW
22 LYN
8 M
33 MA
70 MAC
14 MAG
14 MAJ
MAL 1R
MAV 1R
911 MAX
MAY 10R
44 MB
MBS 2
14 MC
22 MD
1 MDN
111 ME
15 MF
1 MFH
1 MFP
123 MG
2 MGA

555 JN
30 JO
JON 1K
911 JP
JPS 50
500 JR
2 JRS
20 JS
1 JSY
555 JT
10 JU
100 JV
12 JW
111 JY
333 KA
KAD 1S
1 KAH
15 KAN
KAR 11A
KAS 1F
1 KBS
1 KDS
111 KE
1 KEM
KEM 1X

1 LBL
55 LC
1 LCW
50 LD
222 LE
5 LEE
15 LEO
1 LER
15 LF
1 LGM
33 LH
11 LIP
21 LK
1 LKY
14 LL
17 LM
1 LMO
20 LN
15 LP
1 LPS
55 LR
17 LS
1 LSH
12 LT
911 LUV

MGC 300G
1 MGT
8 MH
22 MJ
MJP 2
100 MK
1 MKA
1 MLK
11 MLS
17 MO
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MOJ 1D
222 MR
1 MRP
33 MS
1 MSW
8 MU
1 MUJ
MUK 1
41 N
786 NA
NAR 1S
12 NB
10 NC
4 ND

10 NE
NEW 1S
8 NF
22 NH
50 NJ
9 NK
123 NL
50 NM
15 NN
28 NOV
14 NP
321 NR
17 NS
100 NT
6 NV
N1 ALA
N1 COT
N1 ELL
N1 FTY
N1 HAR
N1 MAT
N1 NAS
N1 NOS
N1 PPY
ODL 1N
OLP 1N
10 OR
20 OS
14 P
17 PA
PAG 1N
321 PAM
PAO 1A
PAT 1L
60 PAT
22 PB
1 PBS
40 PC
66 PCF
1 PCM
300 PD
2 PDS
1 PED
1 PGT
911 PM
15 PN
2 POR
2 PR
1 PRU
50 PS
PUN 1A
7 PUT
8 PV
10 PW
1 PWB
100 PX
111 PY
P1 ARA
P1 ATT
P1 CES
P1 CKS
P1 EAT
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P1 LAR
P1 NCH
P1 NDA
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P1 NTO
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P1 TTA
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4 RAM
RAS 1T
RAS 4
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RAV 1B
999 RAY
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1 RBG
2 RBL
2 RBP
2 RBR
2 RBT
1 RBY
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2 RCC
2 RCK
2 RCM
2 RCR
1 RCT
100 RD
2 RDM
2 RDS
15 RE
111 REG
1 REK
REX 11
3 RF
1 RFT
2 RG
2 RGM
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11 RJB
1 RJK
14 RK
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14 RM
50 RN
10 RO
333 ROB
ROH 11T
44 RON
60 ROY
111 RP
1 RPR
1 RPT
30 RR
77 RS
1 RST
20 RT
RUF 1E
3 RV
3 RX
100 RY
500 S

22 SA
SAJ 11D
21 SAM
1 SAO
13 SB
30 SD
111 SE
SEN 6A
1 SFS
1 SGM
24 SH
SHF 1
30 SJ
1 SJP
33 SK
200 SL
1 SLM
444 SM
9 SN
33 SO
1 SOJ
SON 1C
111 SP
11 SR
1515 SS
911 ST
6 SU
13 SUE
SUN 11L
SUR 1A
6 SV
9999 SW
111 SX
20 T
111 TA
2 TAB
425 TAG
2 TAJ
2 TAK
7 TAM
40 TB
1 TBD
17 TC
15 TED
15 TEE
TEL 4D
6 TEL
TES 1E
3 TES
40 TG
21 TH
THR 1P
1 TJD
TJM 1
14 TK
22 TL
123 TM
12 TN
22 TO
55 TOM
TON 1K
911 TON
15 TP
21 TR
21 TS
588 TT
9999 TU
22 TV

11 TW
22 TWO
9 TY
2 UC
7 UE
6 UH
50 UK
44 US
15 V
4 VB
6 VET
111 VJ
3 VL
8 VM
3 VN
6 VR
1 VU
4 VW
9999 VY
81 W
100 WA
1 WAC
WAD 10W
WAG 1T
1 WAP
WAS 11
1 WBC
1 WBM
1 WBS
4 WC
WCB 1
15 WD
1 WDS
WEC 1
WEN 1
1 WFP
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1 WGB
50 WH
1 WHG
282 WHO
1 WID
1 WIL
9 WL
1 WLS
111 WM
1 WMW
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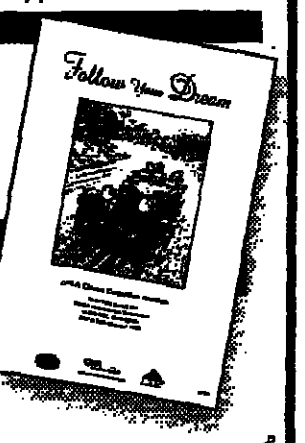

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B11 FFY ... £1,600
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B13 OBS ... £890
K18 OBS ... £890
B7 RDS £2,490
B7 RDY £2,490
B7 RTY £990
B13 URY ... £1,999

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B11 DLT ... £1,450
H16 LOP ... £650
H4 RNY £1,695
H4 TTE £850

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J44 CKO ... £1,350
7 ON £7,500
J1 VEY £2,450
J10 ANA ... £4,950

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B16 TTV
J9 ROO
M4 MEX
N20 ROD
P2 XXX

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N4 DER ... £3,500
N10 TTS ... £2,450

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P1 NAS £5,500
P1 NOS £5,500
P4 TEY £2,490
P8 UNO ... £1,390
P4 VER £2,850
P4 VEY £3,450

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N15 AAB .. £1,300
J4 AAG £550
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M333 BMW £990
M13 CAR .. £1,450
A15 CAR .. £950
B16 COB .. £2,450
B16 XJR .. £1,450
FJT 348 .. £1,490
B16 FWD . £1,750
A14 FWD .. £750
A1 GTB ... £2,500
L13 HOT .. £550
HSU 348 £1,450
B1 JAG £3,600
B6 JAG £1150
J11 JAG ... £890
M1 JLX .. £1,350
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L80 OSE .. £750
M6 OSL £750
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B16 POR £1,990
A911 RBH ... £550
ROL 3Y ... £1,750
B16 ROL .. £1,750
M9 SPT £750
A20 SUP £450
TAM 944Y .. £390
TUR 807W £1,750
B212 TVR ... £390
B5 USA £890
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WSV 959 ... £750
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K220 XJ ... £1,750
B16 XJR .. £1,450
M7 XKB ... £2,250

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B1 AME .. £2,250
A11 AMO ... £990
B11 NGO £11,950
B1 OWN ... £2,400
B11 UES .. £2,899
B10 WNS ... £2,850
F1RST .. £22,500
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K15 OFF ... £2,500
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M1 DST ... £2,490
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B10 WNS £2,850
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L1 RCH ... £1,350
TEX 1S ... £2,950
TOY 5 ... £25,050

The scarlet flamboyance of the Testarossa has given way to 1990s-style restraint. **Alan Copps** reports

MARC ASPLAND

Alan Copps behind the wheel of Ferrari's new 550 Maranello: stylishly restrained but faster, more powerful and quicker in every respect than the legendary Testarossa that it replaces

Enjoying the discreet charm of the Ferrari

Say "Ferrari" and what does the word conjure up? Michael Schumacher on the track winning against the odds; the best racing drivers for generations and hordes of scarlet-clad *tifosi* frantic at the latest victory; big, noisy, powerful, sexy, red sports car — the ultimate boy's toy?

Think again. For it seems that Ferrari buyers are becoming just a tiny bit shy. Even if they have got £143,684.88p for a new 550 Maranello, the rich of the 1990s may not want to flaunt it like those show-offs of the 1980s who fell for the aggressive style of the Testarossa. The 550, the first front-engined, rear-wheel-drive Ferrari for a long time, has more restrained looks and even, whisper it quietly among the diehard racers, traction control.

"Performance is still the most important thing, but our customers want to be more discreet now," says Tim Watson, sales and marketing manager of Ferrari UK. "There's still a majority who want traditional red cars, but we're getting more orders for metallic blues and greys."

FERRARI 550

Engine: 5.5-litre, 48-valve, V12 giving 485bhp at 7000rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed manual with rear wheel drive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 4.3 seconds. Max speed, 199mph.

Economy: Average 12mpg, about 8mpg in town.

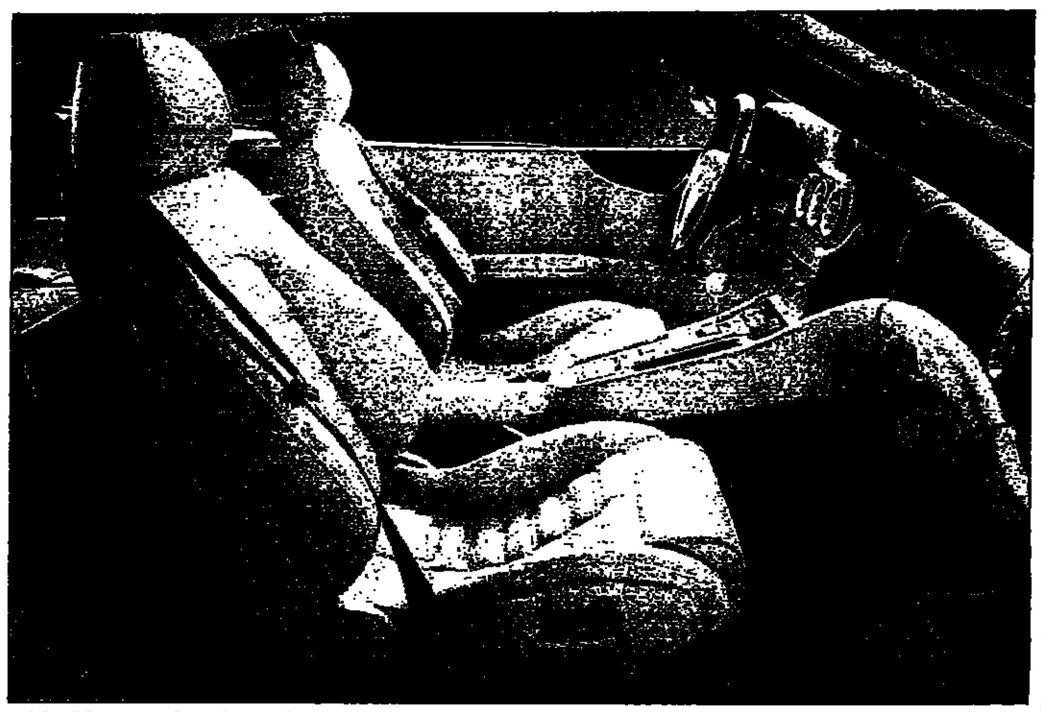
Equipment: Leather seating, strapped luggage shelf, Sony radio and CD autochanger.

Price: £143,685.88p

This change to accommodate the more restrained style of the 1990s is stressed by Luca de Montezomolo, the flamboyant chairman who is given the credit for Ferrari's recent revival. "I drive a Spider myself every day down from my home in the hills — a blue one," he says, and then walking through the clinically clean Maranello factory talking about the 550 he stops and points: "You see how good this car looks in blue? It's a car with extreme performance, but one that you can enjoy driving. We don't want you to put helmets on. Extreme cars can be difficult to drive, noisy. But we don't want to make cars just for a small number of collectors."

So, given the chance to drive a Ferrari on the company's Fiorano test track for the first time, did I opt for one of these new discreet colours? No. I couldn't bring myself to choose anything but red. I wanted to enjoy this experience in primary colours.

This may be the discreet Ferrari but it is still simply sensational. The most astonishing thing is just how easy this car is to drive. It is not just much bigger, but much faster, more powerful and quicker in every respect than the 512M, the legendary Testarossa that it replaces. It could be intimidating, but it's not.



Nothing macho about the cockpit, the leather seat oozes comfort even for the tallest driver

There is nothing macho about the cockpit: the controls come readily to hand, the leather seat oozes comfort even for the tallest driver, the dashboard is simple, the six-speed chrome gate of the gearbox is impressive but not daunting, there is nothing to demand special technique, just an air of purpose that calls for respect. The engine doesn't roar or split the ears, the note is steady, solid, louder than most cars, but not extrovert about announcing its 485 brake horse power. Some may have called the front end styling tame, but viewed from behind the wheel the bump of the central air intake is an impressive reminder that here lies real power.

That power comes in so smoothly it can be deceptive. Heading for the hairpin on my second lap, I realise I'm going too fast. I brake hard and the traction control takes over.

For a split-second there's a jerky sensation as I feel those huge rear disc brakes clamp on. I know I'm turning in too late and wait for a tyre squeal or that rolling sensation. There is nothing, the car remains perfectly stable. I steer through the corner and accelerate away.

As confidence increases I switch off the traction control and enjoy the rare sensation of power sliding this car through the circuit's curves. Even without the electronic help, it is astonishingly well-mannered and forgiving of excessive enthusiasm.

But where all this really matters is on the road. This car burbles smoothly through the traffic of Maranello from 1,500rpm upwards. Once out on the nearby mountain roads, the handling comes into its own, the responses are so quick and the brakes so powerful there is a feeling of immense security.

It's not exactly the car for shopping, although compared to most of its rivals it has an extraordinary amount of luggage space: enough for two golf bags rather than one.

The dream that I saw in shop windows

John Lawson finally gets behind the famous wheel

Lawson and Ferrari: like a lottery winner

From the days of sticking posters of Ferraris on my bedroom wall I have dreamed of driving one. I have been a passenger, but until Martin Smith handed me the keys of a 328 GTS, I had never sat behind that small black steering wheel with the yellow badge and black stallion.

Smith and his colleagues at Bespokes, the classic car hire specialists, in Bushey, Hertfordshire, must be used to waving off people with stupid grins on their faces. I was no exception.

The first challenge was keeping my eyes on the road when I was distracted by a glimpse of this beautiful car in shop windows and could hardly believe I was driving it. My drive was a leaving present from *The Times* graphics department. I felt like a lottery winner.

According to all the articles I have read, being 6ft 3ins is too tall to be comfortably seated in a Ferrari, but I found it had better headroom than a Peugeot 205. With no power steering, in town the car takes a bit of effort, and only on the open road, as the engine note rises and the throttle responds, does this dream become reality. Your whole perspective changes being so close to the ground.

I found the real power came above 4,000 revs, where most cars are approaching their peak. The Ferrari seemed much happier above this, the noise of 3.2 litres flooding into life making the stereo redundant.

The sun came out as we came into Shrewsbury, and with the targa top taken off, we drove to lunch with my father at the golf club. Later, checking in at the Coombe Abbey Hotel, in Warwickshire, I couldn't remember the registration. I just hoped "Bright red Ferrari" might be enough of a clue.

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* Price excludes delivery (£415), number plates and road fund licence. Model shown features optional alloy wheels at £480.

هكذا من الأصل

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Self-indulgent: Dylan Thomas by M.Ayrton (1945)

■ THE REDRESS OF POETRY
Oxford Lectures
By Seamus Heaney
Faber and Faber. £8.99
ISBN 0 571 17537 6

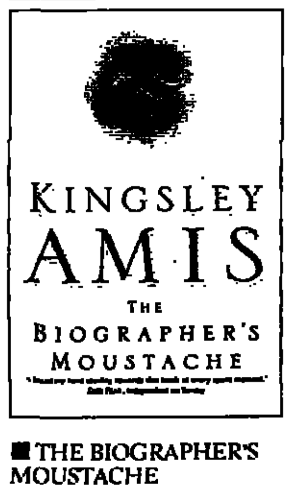
SENSIBILITIES course through these lectures, remarkable in their range. Heaney seeks to explain how poetry articulates the autistic, how "we go to poetry to be forwarded within ourselves". It is always this spiritual dimension that he explores, whether in considering Marlowe as an apologist for late Tudor militarism or the young Dylan Thomas "bogged in masturbatory claustrophobia".

He gives us a moving and empathic study of the much misunderstood Hugh MacDiarmid. What he has to say about John Clare is new. His reading of Elizabeth Bishop is full of fresh insights. He makes such telling points as that no poet nowadays can claim, in a multimedia age, to write in a local language.

There may be too much reflection for some on the "exacerbations and entrapments" of Northern Irish politics. But whatever his subject, whether Hardy or Herbert, Heaney's learning is prodigious and all the better for being lightly worn.

He lights all this up with an intelligence that is wise and keen and tender. In teasing out many "minor points of major importance", he does effect a redress of the practical and the poetic, a reconciliation that leaves the reader with a penetrating peace. He proves Seferis's claim that "poetry is strong enough to help".

Those who regard the Oxford lectures as an ineffectual anachronism should read this book and find that they are wrong.



KINGSLEY AMIS
THE
BIOGRAPHER'S
MOUSTACHE

■ THE BIOGRAPHER'S MOUSTACHE
By Kingsley Amis
Flamingo. £5.99
ISBN 0 00 654871 7

STRUGGLING literary hack Gordon Scott-Thompson, fortysomething and decidedly not posh, despite the name, is commissioned to write a biography of veteran novelist Jimmie Fane, who thinks he is, with his hatred of sloppy pronunciation and men with moustaches. Gordon sheds his moustache and embarks on an affair with Jimmie's much younger wife, before deciding, naturally enough, that the novelist is beyond bearing. This is vintage Amis satire *with its merry swipes at the* literary mafia and the so-called upper classes and its creation in Jimmie of a truly fascinating, appalling sacred monster, a conscious parody of Amis himself.

■ I SHOULD SAY SO
By Bernard Levin
Sceptre £6.99
ISBN 0 340 67180 7

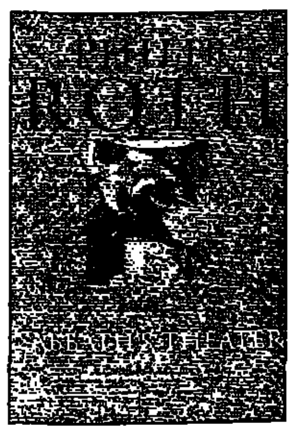
LEVIN'S inimitable style *and humour are to be found* in abundance in this collection of essays, taken from his column in *The Times*. Although he draws largely on man's inhumanity to man, his commentaries range boldly from the outrageous, to the unfair and the absurd. This is the eighth collection of essays published by Levin and covers a variety of topics ranging from the suicide of a young pop star, to an ostrich-wrestling woman, to Chinese repression in Tibet.

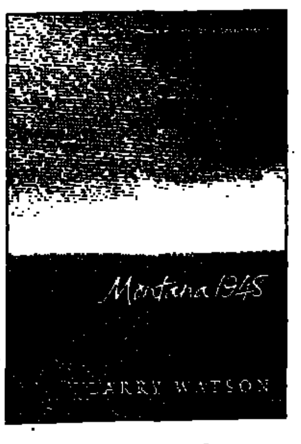
■ THE BRONSKI HOUSE
By Philip Marsden
Flamingo £6.99
ISBN 0 00 638692 X

IN 1992, Zofia Ilinska revisited the Belorussian village of her childhood in search of her family home. Philip Marsden tells what she found there: devastation but also the remembrance of old friends. Marsden tells of Zofia's mother, Helena, of her turbulent girlhood during the Russian Revolution in St Petersburg and life between the wars in Belorussia. Using Helena's papers, *Marsden recounts the family's* flight from the Bolsheviks and the Germans, and the sense of impending doom that the world they knew was coming to an end in 1939, for a second time.

■ THE BEAUTY OF THE BEASTLY **By Natalie Angier**
Abacus, £7.99 ISBN 0 349 10769 6

WHO KNEW that rattlesnakes had haunches? Natalie Angier makes science writing into fascinating story-telling, shamelessly anthropomorphising. *She presents theories that add detail and nuance to existing beliefs and she unearths the* beastly of the beautiful (evil dolphin and cruel orchid practices) and vice versa (cockroaches deserve respect). Among the themes: beauty may be more than skin deep, there's no monogamy in the animal kingdom, the importance of joy and play and eating *your* veggies. Angier's book puts the poetry into DNA.





■ SABBATH'S THEATRE
By Philip Roth
Vintage. £6.99
ISBN 0 09 958201 5

INNOVATIVE, scandalous puppeteer and sometime theatre director, Morris Sabbath abandons his wife of 30-odd years to journey to New York City, scene of the mysterious disappearance of his first wife. Thus he embarks on a licentious odyssey through his past, graphically recalling his amorous conquests, particularly his wives and mistress. Sabbath is the self-styled "Evangelist of Fornication". Exuberant, dirty and outspoken, and proving beyond doubt that the spirit of Portnoy is alive and still at it, this exhilarating, firecracker of a novel leaves you gasping until the final page.

■ MONTANA, 1948
By Larry Watson
Pan. £5.99
ISBN 0 330 33679 7

SEEN through the eyes of a 12-year-old, this is a skilful story about the effects that adult guilt and secrecy have on a colourful Montana family. As David tries to come to grips with dreadful knowledge that he has pieced together from observation and eavesdropping, he experiences a range of troubling emotions from sadness to the violent urge to kill someone. By the time his loving parents and his defiant grandfather have worked through their own conflicting feelings about the sex crimes committed by his uncle Frank, David has lost his innocence but gained lasting wisdom.

● *Ross Leckie, Fiona Hook, Victoria Walker, Amanda Loose, Natalie Hildebrandt, Fanny Blake, Alison Burns*

Porterhouse alumnus **Derwent May** finds too much venom and too little humour in Tom Sharpe's charmless new farce

Laugh? I nearly tried

■ THE MIDDEN
By Tom Sharpe
Deutsch, with Secker, £15.99
ISBN 0 436 20295 6

THERE are few television serials I would more willingly watch again than Tom Sharpe's *Porterhouse Blue*, his genial black comedy about a benighted Cambridge college. But his mood has worsened, and his new novel, *The Midden*, begins very badly indeed.

It is about a stupid, rich family, the Brights; and how the life of their idiotic yuppie son Timothy gets farcically entangled with the life (if you can call it that) of a totally corrupt chief constable, Sir Arnold Gonders. Everybody is so seamlessly worthless — and described with such unflagging venom by the author — that it is practically impossible to feel any interest in them. They all swear foully not only when they are speaking but even when they are thinking. Their wild depravity is meant to be funny but is so unsympathetic and monotonous that not a laughing muscle stirs.

Timothy embezzles the shares of his 90-year-old Auntie Boskie, and agrees to do some drug-smuggling for a further consideration, but after being given a pipe of hallucinogenic tobacco by an equally unattractive cousin, goes on a 170mph motorbike ride to the North and ends up, dead to the world, in the chief constable's bed. It is almost the last straw for Gonders, already at his wit's end with his entanglements with pornography and fraud.

It is only when he tries to dump the still senseless Timothy on a hated neighbour, Miss Midden, in the hope of getting her somehow suspected of paedophilia, that the story begins to acquire a bit of dramatic conflict. Miss Midden, though no more likeable than anyone else in the book, is at least upright, and battle with the chief constable gets under way.

The farce manages to take wing at the last moment. While the chief constable sits reading the Bible, delighted to discover that Job was finally let off by God, the armed quick response squad of his police force is approaching Miss Midden's estate, by now convinced that an enormous paedophilic orgy is imminent. There are many deaths, by fire and bullet, and a cook is almost boiled alive — but while the scene is as horrible as any that have preceded it, it succeeds, at last, in being funny.

It must be because the Dean of Porterhouse has arrived, to look after (quite properly) a coachful of boys visiting Miss Midden from the Porterhouse Mission to the East End.

A dead ringer for King

Stephen King has raised his alter ego from the tomb, **Peter Millar** reports

■ DESPERATION
By Stephen King
Hodder. £16.99
ISBN 0 340 65427 9

■ THE REGULATORS
By Richard Bachmann
Hodder. £16.99
ISBN 0 340 67176 9

IMAGINE a dark room in which a grinning monster sits, spinning a web of insidious horror. As you steel yourself to face it, you notice it is looking not at you, but over your shoulder. You spin, taken by terror, and discover at your back a mirror-image of the selfsame monster, its limbs transposed, its eyes reversed, staring over your other shoulder. And all the while the two are coming closer.

Welcome to the dark place, occupied by more than a million human beings, in the twilight zone between Stephen King and Richard Bachmann. Some authors maintain masquerades all their careers, holding to an alter ego as a separate stylistic personality — Ruth Rendell and Barbara Vine come to mind. Others dispense with them as they mature. Stephen King murdered his and is now bringing him back from beyond the grave.

King: weird business

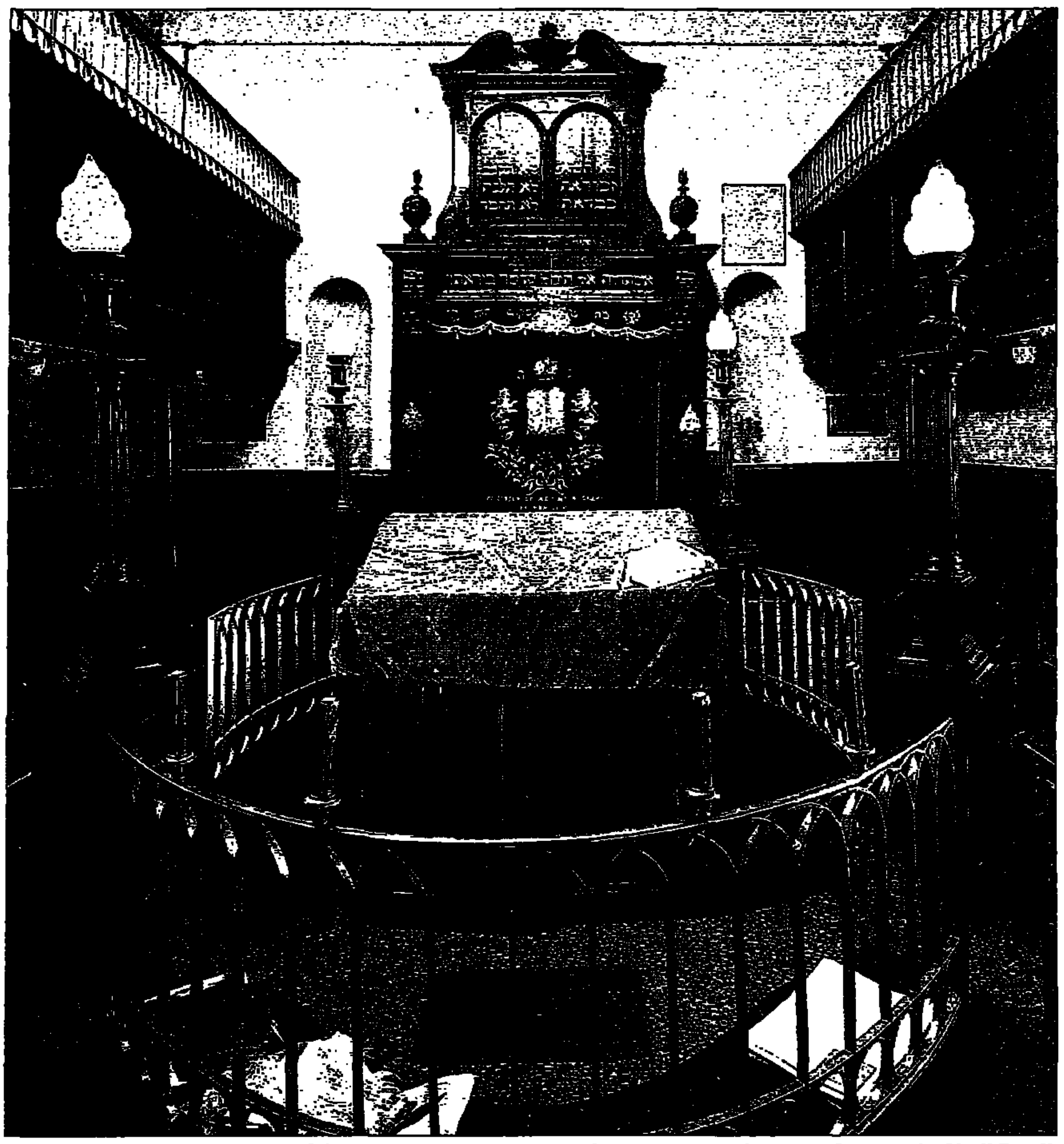
Popular fiction's most prolific terror-monger has had a hell of a year. Not only has he just completed a "death row" serial thriller — *The Green Mile* — released in six monthly parts, *à la* Charles Dickens, to gross more than any of his megabuck-earning single books, but now he has brought forth, in his own expression, twins.

An apparently empty town in the Nevada desert — "being who I am, I thought, 'They're all dead. Who killed them?' " — inspired *Desperation*, in which supernatural evil has run amok disguised as the local sheriff. *The Regulators* superficially takes the same set of characters, including the supernatural being, and transposes them to suburban Ohio, in which the killing agents come straight out of Saturday morning merchandising cartoon sci-fi and cable reruns of *Bonanza*.

Bachmann was originally invented as a camouflage for King's extra output so that the punters might not think they were getting a diluted dose. Hence the irony of bringing him back to life in the author's most prolific year. The dual release might seem a mistake in marketing terms, but my bet is that addicts will buy both and the cross-fertilisation will make casual King fans more aware of his supposedly defunct alter ego. In character, King has invented a whole afterlife for Bachmann, explaining the new novel as a "discovery" by his "widow" in an attic trunk, following the young writer's death "by cancer of the pseudonym".

Despite his attempts to give both books different personae, the stylistic similarities that led to a librarian's unmasking of Bachmann as a King alias more than a decade ago show through. The double act's genius remains in the conjuring of evil out of ephemera, of a malevolent universe lurking behind the Walmart shopping trolley banality of everyday, small-town America, a world in which ancient, bloodthirsty demons crack Jerry Lewis jokes and sing Peter, Paul and Mary tunes.

Weird. But then that is his business. Big business.



House of the Lord: the interior of the Exeter Hebrew Congregation, consecrated in 1764 — from *And I Shall Dwell Among Them: Historic Synagogues of the World* by Neil Folberg (Aperture, £39.99, ISBN 0 89381 640 X)

A little help from his friend

■ TIME FOR BED
By David Baddiel
Little, Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 87671 2

TELEVISION comics have a warm-up man to soften up the audience before the cameras actually start rolling and the show's star arrives. The publishers of *David Baddiel's debut novel, borrowing a* trick from his first career, called in a literary warm-up man to whet our appetite for the comedian's first novel.

A large quote on the cover tells us that *Time For Bed* is, "very, very funny ... I thought the book was terrific.". Who did? Only Roddy Doyle, that is who.

This puts a big burden on readers. And reviewers. If Len Deighton swears on the jacket of a new Freddie Forsyth that the novel is "utterly gripping", a disappointed *reader can still shrug and say that, as it* happens, he just is not a fan of thrillers.

But funny is either funny, or it is not. If Roddy Doyle laughs, and you do not, then — excuse me — but, unless you happen to be Woody Allen or Joseph Heller or Carl Hiassen, maybe you should just accept the fact that you have the sense of humour of a blowfish.

So how funny is it?

Gabriel Jacoby, the dole-claiming narrator, is not only an insomniac, he is mad keen in love with his brother's wife, Alice, to whom his brother Ben — editor of a sports magazine — is happily married. This set-up gives Gabriel (who is Jewish, *but not quite Portnoy) plenty of time to* toss and turn in bed, fantasising, feeling sorry for himself, and swearing. If he cannot have Alice, what can happiness possibly mean? He decides that maybe it can mean Alice's sister, Dina.

In between pining for Alice and humping her sister, there is plenty of laddish banter and buckets of those *observations about life's tiny details that* make up a comedian's stage act. If it is sometimes tricky to discern a consistent voice, this may be because it is tricky to write a novel, let alone when you have a comic reputation to live up to. This might explain why there are patches — especially some later, tender ones — that might be overseasoned with jokiness.

But it is not bad for a debut (ask Roddy), especially when Baddiel already has several other careers (television, music, *screenplays) on the go. The next book* — maybe a little leaner — promises to be even better. But then, who am I to say?

JOE JOSEPH

Police corruption, Internet intrigue and the history of America's mean streets

Some arresting developments

CRIME ROUND-UP

■ TOP BANANA
By Bill James
Macmillan. £15.99
ISBN 0 333 67059 0

AN EXPERIENCED drug courier is shot dead in an inner-city shoot out, apparently the innocent victim of an inter-gang feud. What makes the case different is that she is just 13, and that the bullets did not seem to come from the obviously suspected guns. The police's inquiries are less than thorough. A peace deal is under discussion between the egregious Assistant Chief Constable Iles and the top gangsters. Too much police activity might spoil it.

The slightly more moral Chief Superintendent Harpur prefers the option of infiltrating the crooks; but there is a traitor cop who would spot the informant.

Bill James is a superb chronicler of the relationship between law enforcers and law breakers; both are, to him, flawed people inhabiting a microcosmic society in which they have more in common with each other than with any outsiders. It is a thesis which questions our very notions of right and wrong. James purveys it with disturbing force.

■ GOODNIGHT, MY ANGEL
By Margaret Murphy
Macmillan. £15.99
ISBN 0 333 66948 7

DEBUT crime novels that can be praised unreservedly, with- [illegible] "promising", are rare. *Goodnight, My Angel* mixes the traditional whodunnit and the latest in Internet technology with immense confidence.

Kate Pearson's 12-year old daughter Melanie was kidnapped and killed six months ago; the perpetrator has not been found. Suddenly a message appear on Kate's computer screen: "Why did you let him hurt me, Mummy?".

Other e-mails flow in, purporting to come from the dead girl: more tangible reminders of her follow. The sender — Melanie's murderer? — is techno-clever enough to hide his tracks; but soon the computer torture is joined by physical threat. Murphy creates terrific menace and tension, well climaxed.

Mosley: superior plotting

■ A LITTLE YELLOW DOG
By Walter Mosley
Serpent's Tail. £8.99
ISBN 1 85242 370 6

MOSLEY'S captivating march through recent American social history as seen through the eyes of the black Los Angeles private eye Easy [illegible] Kennedy is President, the civil rights movement is bubbling, and Rawlins, tired of plying his dangerous trade at the margins of legality, has taken on a respectable job as head janitor of a local high school. But the murdered body of an expensively dressed gangster is found on the premises, and Rawlins is drawn back into his old routine of having to find the killer before the violent and racist police decide to pin the crime on him.

His predicament is not helped by his lustful involvement with the victim's widow, owner of the crucial yellow

Director, Douglas McGrath.

ley's combination of superior plotting, precise dialogue and the ability to convey the atmosphere of the times are as effective as in the previous four Easy Rawlins novels — though first-timers to Mosley are advised to read the series in order rather than start with this one.

■ THE OXFORD BOOK OF AMERICAN DETECTIVE STORIES
Ed. Tony Hillerman and Rosemary Herbert
Oxford University Press, £17.50
ISBN 0 19 508581 7

AN ADMIRABLE, intelligently compiled anthology of nearly 700 pages, containing some three dozen stories aimed at showing the development of the American branch of crime story-telling from 1841 (Edgar Allen Poe, of course) to the feminist present of Marcia Muller and Linda Barnes. Each story is prefaced by an informative page of comment and scene-setting.

The compilation, as its editors confess, has one huge gap: Dashiell Hammett, perhaps the most influential American crime writer of all, not represented for copyright reasons. His absence mars the book but does not prevent it from being one of the few anthologies in this field which shows signs of being carefully thought out, not just hastily thrown together.

On the sugar beat

■ EVENING CLASS
By Maeve Binchy
Orion, £16.99
ISBN 0 7528 0451 0

READING Maeve Binchy has always acted as therapy of a sort. Her witty, literate small-town tales exude a rosy glow to ease the troubled mind. This latest novel, which has shot straight to the top of the bestseller list, steps up the treatment to something approaching full-scale social work. The setting has moved from the timeless Irish backwater to modern Dublin, complete *with glitterati restaurants*, financial scandals and dirty video dealers, but the compensatory sugar factor is dangerously near the boil.

The evening class of the title is a consolation prize for Aidan Dunne, a schoolmaster in middle age who has been passed over for the headship he had long expected. Relieved of his expected future, he is permitted by the new head to fulfil a long-held fantasy, to set up an evening class in Italian language and culture. Everyone expects it to fail, but a good fairy comes to the rescue.

Nora O'Donoghue has lived in Sicily for 23 years, mistress to a hotelier she had lived with in London but who left her to return home for an arranged marriage. Now he has died, she is no longer welcome and she returns to a city changed beyond recognition. Her family still regard her as a fallen woman. She is penniless, her only asset fluent Italian and a magical enthusiasm for im-

[illegible] Coming Soon

In Nora's hands the evening class succeeds beyond all expectations. Basking in her glow, Aidan forgets his woes and starts to shine. What started as a group of assorted misfits becomes a community, its complex interlocking array *of problems magicked away* by communal concern and Nora's healing wisdom.

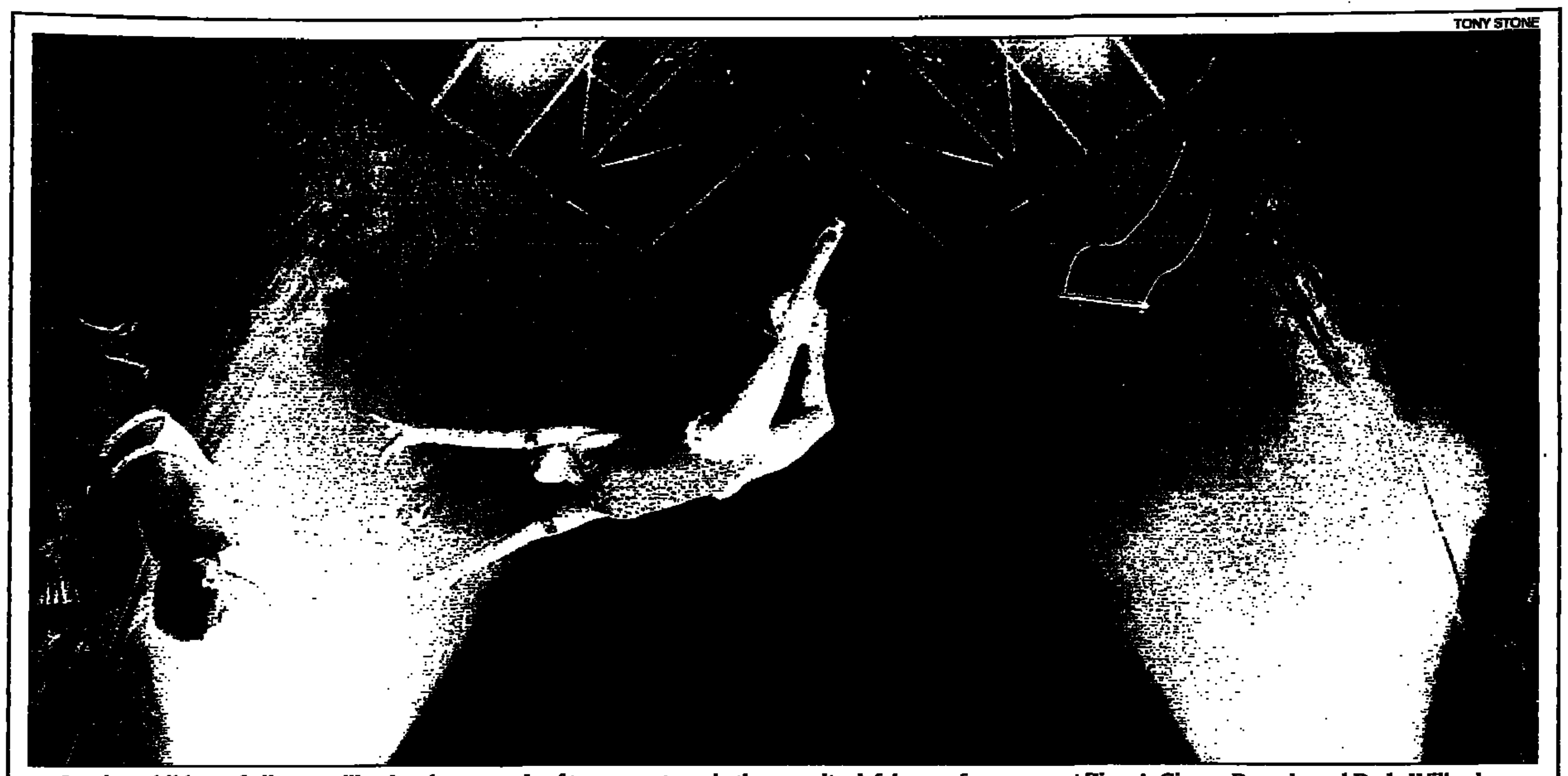
The healing power of the community is Binchy's familiar theme. Nosiness, kindness and gossip redeem the wayward and lonely in a warm bath of mythical Irishness that makes it is quite impossible to imagine the plot transferred to, say, Edinburgh.

The formula rarely fails to wring a tear from the most hardened reader, but with so much twinkly, sparkly magic dust floating around this time, *Evening Class* might just make you sneeze.

ROSE WILD

NIGHT AT THE OPERA? VISITING A GALLERY? GOING OUT
Pages 14-15
Page 17

GOING OUT



TONY STONE

London: children of all ages will enjoy the spectacle of trapeze acts and other gravity-defying performances at Zippo's Circus, Roundwood Park, Willesden

CHILDREN

■ LONDON

The Arrival
Tale of an alien visiting super-hero land, for ages three plus.
Jackson's Lane Community Centre,
Archway Road, N6 (0181-341 4421). Today, 11am and 2pm; £3.

Fruit and Flowers
Three-year-olds and above are invited to develop creative skills.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood,
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-983 5200). Today, 11am-12.45pm and 2pm-3.45pm; free.

Shipmates
An investigation into the life and talents of seafarers.
National Maritime Museum,
Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today, phone for details; £5.50, concs £4.50, child £3, family £16.

Zippo's Circus
Gravity-defying performances in this circus extravaganza, plus innovative horse displays.
Roundwood Park,
Roundwood Road, NW10 (0374 811 811/608 090). Tonight, tomorrow, times vary; £4.50-£8, child £3.50-£7.50.

■ REGIONAL

BANGOR
Young Aspects
Literary fun for children, including poetry classes, Irish authors reading extracts from books, plus a lunchtime magic show.
North Down Heritage Centre,
Town Hall (01247 271200), from 11am; £2.

LEEDS
Children's Dance Workshop
Eight to 18-year-olds can join a regular dance class.
Northern School of Contemporary Dance,
Chapeltown Road (0113-262 5359). Today, 9.30am-2.30pm; admission 50p.

MANCHESTER
K'nex Exhibition
A selection of games for children to try.
Museum of Science and Industry,
Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm; £4, concs £2.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Children's Gallery
Fun activities for under-fives.
Laing Art Gallery,
Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2-5pm; free.

RICKMANSWORTH
Sooty's Circus
Sooty and his pals in action.
Watersmeet,
High Street (01923 896484/771542). Today, 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm; £5-£5.50.

FAIRS

■ LONDON

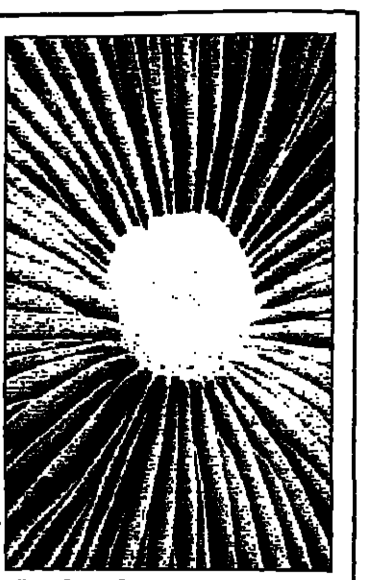
Fungus 100
Last day to experience the fungi extravaganza with a series of slide shows and an exhaustive number of fungi cultures on display.
Royal Horticultural Society Halls,
Greycoat Street, SW1 (0171-834 4333). Today, 10am-5pm; admission free.

Heritage Antiques Fair
Range of silver, glass, jewellery, enamels, prints, paintings, ceramics, plus decorative items for the collector.
London Marriot Hotel,
Grosvenor Square, W1 (0171-493 1232). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; phone for details.

Live '96 — The Consumer Electronics Exhibition
Electronic heaven for domestic techies, complete with a PC village.
Earls Court Exhibition Centre,
Warwick Road, SW5 (0171-373 8141). Today, ends tomorrow 10am-7pm; £9, child £5.

London Arms Fair
Antique armour and arms, plus militaria and related literature.
Earls Court International Hotel,
Lillie Road, SW6 (0171-373 7079). Today, 10am-4pm; £6, child £1.

London Collectables Fair
Anything worth collecting, under one roof.
Battersea Town Hall,
Town Hall Road, SW11 (0181-741 9579). Tomorrow, 11am-4.30pm; £1, early pass £3.



London: close-up, Fungus 100

National Astronomy Week
The 150th anniversary of Neptune's discovery.
National Maritime Museum,
Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today; phone for details; £5.50, concs £4.50, child £3, family £16.

■ REGIONAL

BOURNEMOUTH
International Ideal Home Exhibition
Demonstrations, stalls and ideas to refurbish the home.
Bournemouth International Centre,
Exeter Road (01202 297297). Today, ends tomorrow, 10am-5pm; £3, concs £2.

GLASGOW
Glasgow International Festival of Design
Leading and emerging designers from fashion and high-tech industries.
Various Venues,
(0141-204 4411). Today, tomorrow, 10am-8pm; free.

CLASSICAL

■ LONDON

Feinstein Ensemble
Selection of J.S. Bach's Sonatas.
Purcell Room,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5-£9.

London Symphony Orchestra/ Hickox
Dyson's choral treatment of *The Canterbury Pilgrims*.
Barbican Hall,
Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £6-£30.

Philharmonia/ Frühbeck de Burgos
Boris Berezovsky plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1, plus Strauss's *Heldenleben*.
Festival Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5-£30.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra/ Lazarev
Rachmaninov's Second Symphony and Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto.
Barbican Hall,
Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7-£25.

Steven Isserlis
Collection of cello works by Rachmaninov, Suk, Schubert and Martinů.
Wigmore Hall,
Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7pm; £7.50-£15.

Sinfonia Verdi/ Murphy
Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Bruch's First Violin Concerto.
St John's,
Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£12.

Vogler Quartet
Beethoven's string quartet cycle beginning with Op 18, No 2, Op 95 and Op 127.
Wigmore Hall,
Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£14.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

RADIO 3 CELEBRATED

Given its prominent role in commissioning and broadcasting new music, Radio 3 is right to make an epic world premiere the centrepiece of its own 50th anniversary celebrations tomorrow. The work is *Renewal*, a big orchestral and choral work by the British composer Colin Matthews, which will be premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. The concert also includes Janáček's thrilling *Glagolitic Mass*, featuring soloists Eva Urbanova and Catherine Wyn-Rogers. Hear it live in the Festival Hall, or at home on Radio 3 where the concert will be one of no fewer than five live events broadcast tomorrow, starting at 11.15am and continuing to 11.30pm.

RICHARD MORRISON

***Festival Hall*,**
South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

■ REGIONAL

BEVERLEY
Sheffield Symphony Orchestra/ Longstaff
Bruckner's Fifth Symphony.
Beverley Minster,
(01482 862565). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7, concs £4.

Critic's Choice: Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Festival Hall

CARDIFF
BBC National Orchestra of Wales/ Wigglesworth
Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem* with Ravel's complete ballet score to *Daphnis and Chloe*.
St David's Hall,
The Hayes (01222 878444). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50.

GUILDFORD
Guildford Philharmonic/ Shao
Nielsen's Flute Concerto with Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.
Guildford Civic Hall,
(01483 444555). Tomorrow, 3pm; £10-£12.

HUDDERSFIELD
City of London Sinfonia
Baroque works including a candelit performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.
Town Hall,
Albion Street (01484 430528). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.50-£16.50.

KENDAL
Northern Sinfonia/ Pommier
The programme includes Fauré's *Pavane* and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasia*.
Westmorland Hall,
Kendal Leisure Centre, Burton Road (01539 729777). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5-£13.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
London Mozart Players/ Shelley
Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto and Schubert's Sixth Symphony. The soloist is Howard Shelley.
Kingston Parish Church,
(01372 843292). Tonight, 8pm; £5-£13.

MANCHESTER
Hallé/ Nagano
Mahler's monumental Eighth Symphony, *The Symphony of a Thousand*.
Bridgewater Hall,
Lower Mosely Street (0161-907 9000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £8-£27.50.

DANCE

■ LONDON

Adventures in Motion Pictures: Swan Lake
Tchaikovsky's ballet, featuring Matthew Bourne's all-male swans.
Piccadilly Theatre,
Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Today 2.30pm; tonight 7.30pm; £9.50-£30, standby concs available.

Choreography Platform: Crosscurrents #8
the work of emerging and leading choreographers.
Jackson's Lane Community Centre,
Archway Road, N6 (0181-341 4421). Tonight, 8pm; £6, concs £4.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

DANCE UMBRELLA

London's annual festival of cutting-edge dance kicks off with one of the most unusual offerings in its history — a large-scale work, choreographed by the American Stephan Koplowitz, which has been designed to fit inside the imposing architecture of the Natural History Museum. Nearly 50 performers will take over the main hall, home of the famous dinosaur skeleton, where they will perform a piece whose theme is human evolution. The festival, which continues at various venues around London until November 8, is showcasing the work of two dozen companies from around the world.

DEBRA CRAINE

***Natural History Museum*,**
Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-387 0031). Tonight, 7.30pm and 9pm; £10, concs £8.

■ REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
Scottish Ballet: Sweat, Baroque and Roll
Triple bill featuring the premiere of Robert Cohan's *Four Seasons*, accompanied by Vivaldi's classic score.
His Majesty's,
Rosemount Viaduct (01224 641122). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5-£15.

BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham Royal Ballet: Triple Bill
Les Patineurs and *Le Baiser de la fée*, plus David Bintley's acclaimed one-act jazz ballet, accompanied by Duke Ellington's version of the *Nutcracker Suite*.
Hippodrome,
Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Today 2.30pm; tonight 7.30pm; £24.50-£35.

BRISTOL
Bi Ma Dance Company: Blue Mandarin
Timely dance work, choreographed by Pit Fong Loh, as four dancers witness the return of Hong Kong to mainland China.
Arnolfini,
Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191). Tonight, 8pm; £7, concs £4.

EDINBURGH
The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago: Billboards
Fashionable American company get funky with a score by Prince.
Festival Theatre,
Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Today 2.30pm and 8pm; tomorrow, 3pm and 8pm; £4.50-£19.50, concs available.

HULL
Northern Ballet Theatre: Dracula
Eerie performance, adapted from Bram Stoker's novel, with choreography by Christopher Gable and Michael Barrett-Pink.
New Theatre,
Kingston Square (01482 226655). Today 2.30pm and

OPERA

■ LONDON

La Bohème
The season begins with John Copley's staging of Puccini's classic.
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5-£130.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LA TRAVIATA

Jonathan Miller's straightforward staging is illuminated by Rosa Mannion's glowing Violetta, a tiny, vulnerable figure with enough weight of voice to sustain one of the most demanding — emotionally as well as vocally — of Italian soprano roles. John Hudson sings Alfredo with Italianate timbre and elegance, and Christopher Robertson is his stuffy father. With luck by this, the sixth performance of the run, the conductor Steven Mercurio will have livened up a bit.

RODNEY MILNES

***London Coliseum*,**
St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today, 7.30pm; £8-£55.

■ REGIONAL

CARDIFF
La Bohème
Welsh National Opera stages Puccini's classic.
New Theatre,
Park Place (01222 878889). Tonight, 7.15pm; £8-£45.

READING
The Magic Flute
Opera Factory stages Mozart's popular comedy.
Hexagon,
Town Hall, Blagrave Street (01734 591591). Tonight, 7.15pm; £14.50-£24.50.

London: Amanda Roocroft as Mimi in *La bohème*

POP

■ LONDON

Big Love
Dance music festival featuring Underworld, Aphex Twin, Spooky, Man With No Name, Black Star Liner.
Otmoor Park,
Beckley (0181-963 0940). Today, 1pm-7am; £29.

Bjorn Again
Australian Abba imitators.
Wimbledon Theatre,
The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362). Tomorrow, 8pm; £12.50-£13.50.

Nils Lofgren
Rock guitarist from Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band.
Shepherd's Bush Empire,
Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Tonight,

Rory McLeod
Scottish folk and world music maverick.
Blackheath Concert Halls,
Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8, concs £6.

NOFX
American punk rockers play to under-18s.
Astoria,
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-434 0403). Tonight, 6pm; admission £8.

Unknown Public Holiday
A day of "creative music", headlined by Dave Stewart and Barbara Gaskin, Frances-Marie Uitti and Billy Jenkins.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £12.50, concs £10.50.

Jah Wobble's Invaders of the Heart
Dub reggae rhythms meet Islamic melodies under the guidance of mystically-minded former punk Wobble.
Astoria,
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-434 0403). Tomorrow, 7pm; £9.

■ REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
The Bluetones
Melodic Britpop guitar band from Hounslow.
Music Hall,
Union Street (01224 641122). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; phone for availability.

BIRMINGHAM
Peter Green
The legendary blues guitarist of Fleetwood Mac continues his comeback.
Ronnie Scott's,
Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £16, mems £5.

DUBLIN
Mary Chapin Carpenter, Lyle Lovett
Left-of-centre American Country double-bill.
The Point,
East Link Bridge (00 3531 836 3633). Tonight, 7pm; £16.50-£20.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

KULA SHAKER

Is it real or is it retro? And does it really matter given that their blistering debut album, *K*, has shot straight to the top of the chart? Whatever your view of Kula Shaker's music — trailblazing progressive pop or a rehashed sounds of the 1960s show — there is no doubt that their current tour is the hottest ticket on the circuit in many a month. Also worth checking are support band Spacehog, originally from Leeds, but currently big news in America, where sales of their album, *Resident Alien*, are approaching the half-million mark.

DAVID SINCLAIR

***Leadmill*,**
Leadmill Road, Sheffield (0114-275 4500). Tonight, 8pm; £7.

SHEFFIELD
Rocket from the Crypt
San Diego punk and rockabilly showmen.
Leadmill,
Leadmill Road (0114-275 4500). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £8.

COMEDY

■ LONDON

Bearcat Comedy at the Turk's Head
Dave Johns, Geoff Boyz, Paul Tonkinson and Boothby Graffoe dish out the gags.
Bearcat Comedy Club, Turk's Head,
Winchester Road, St Margarets (0181-891 1852). Tonight, 9.15pm; £6, concs £5, m'ship £1.

Comedy Benefit in Aid of Trinity Hospice
The headline names include Jo Brand, Arthur Smith, Harry Hill, Mark Thomas, and many more.
Shepherd's Bush Empire,
Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Tonight, 7pm; £10.

Chuckle Club at the LSE
Mark Thomas shares the mike with Mark Hurst.
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2 (0171-476 1672). Tonight, 7.45pm; £6, students £5.

Comics on a Saturday Night
Jo Caulfield, Jonathan Paylor, Fred Wall, plus the regular open spots. Sally Holloway MCs.
Comics on a Saturday Night at the Fulmar and Firkin,
Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0590). Tonight, 8.30pm; admission free.

Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up
Terry Alderton, Ed Byrne, Sean Meo, the Man with a Beard and John Moloney. Tim Clark MCs.
Comedy Store,
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10.

Comedy Store Players
The television-friendly line-up includes Josie Lawrence, Lee Simpson, Neil Mullarkey, Paul Merton and Steve Edis.
Comedy Store,
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914433). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

Jongleurs Camden
This evening's line-up includes Ian Stone, Mandy Knight, Paul Tonkinson and Alistair McGowan, plus the Tracy Brothers MC.
Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock,
Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

Perrier Pick of the Fringe: Dylan Moran is Indisposed
King of this year's Perrier Award flexes his comic muscles. Also with this year's best newcomer, Milton Jones.
Her Majesty's Theatre,
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5-£12.

Rhona Cameron
Gaytime TV's presenter cuts her teeth on a first solo London show.
Drill Hall Arts Centre,
Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tonight, 7.30pm.

■ REGIONAL

BLACKPOOL
Ken Dodd
More slap and ticklestick.
Grand Theatre,
Church Street (01253 28372). Tomorrow, 6pm and 8.45pm; from £7.

CHESTER
Alexander's Comedy Club
Gina Ryan, Paul Vallis and Steve Jay.
Alexander's Jazz Theatre,
Rufus Court (01244 340005). Tonight, 9pm; £5.

Critic's Choice: Victoria Wood, at the Albert Hall

GLOSSOP
Stand Up and Be Counted
Adrian Cook, Jane Hodson and Jane Goodfellow in tomorrow's slot.
Labour Club,
Chapel Street (01457 862023). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £3, concs £2.

MAIDSTONE
Bob Downe
More singalongs with Bob sporting the famed nylons and lacquered hair-do.
Corn Exchange,
Earl Street (01622 686958). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER
Jeff Green
Slick humour from our man about town.
The Dancehouse,
Oxford Road (0161-237 9753). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.

Jenny Eclair
The return of Britain's peroxide queen.
The Dancehouse,
Oxford Road (0161-237 9753). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

NOTTINGHAM
Hollywood Raw
Leo Chester, D.L. Hughley and Russell Peters.
Royal Centre,
South Sherwood Street (0115-948 2626). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12-£14.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

VICTORIA WOOD

The cuddly star comedian rounds off her national tour at the Albert Hall. Wood is still making the crowds cry with laughter, even after seeing shrinks. Her appeal is that she is both cute and spunky, feminist and laddy. She is spinning fantasies about Ken Barlow's sperm bank, plastic surgeons and family Christmases. She also sings, with a grand piano as a sidekick.

KATE BASSETT

***Albert Hall*,**
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight and

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GALLERIES

■ **LONDON**

Blumenfeld: A Fetish for Beauty
Retrospective of the style photographer's fashion, portraiture and nude work.
Barbican Art Gallery,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm, tomorrow, midday-6.45pm; £4.50, concs £2.50 (price includes entry to Jam — see below).

Tacita Dean: Foley Artist
Former Slade School British artist explores the use of sound in film for the Art Now space.
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000). Today, 10am-5.50pm, tomorrow, 2-5.50pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

The scandalous reputation of Mapplethorpe's photographs inevitably comes up in the publicity for this important retrospective. What the show itself reveals is that Mapplethorpe was a rather old-fashioned, essentially studio-based photographer, brilliant at manipulating controlled conditions, whether it was for portraits, flower pictures, or the admiring nude studies, mainly of black men. When he steps out of the studio, he is much less effective. But the notorious S & M pictures and more expansive nudes are a small minority, and seem likely to be forgotten once the dust has settled. Also on show, Antony Gormley's stunning installation, *Field for the British Isles*, a room filled with thousands of tiny terracotta figures.

John Russell Taylor

***Hayward Gallery*, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-261 0127). Today and tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £5.**

CHRIS HARRIS

London: Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles*, a room filled with thousands of terracotta figures, at the Hayward Gallery

Literati: Mark Gerson
Photographs of celebrities from the world of literature.
National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm; tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

Jam
Contemporary media, music and culture explored
Barbican Art Gallery,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm, tomorrow, midday-6.45pm; £4.50, concs £2.50 (includes entry to Blumenfeld).

■ **REGIONAL**

BIRMINGHAM
Eve Arnold: In Retrospect
Magnum photojournalist's work spanning four decades.
Ikon Gallery,
John Bright Street (0121-643 0708). Today, 11am-6pm; free.

CHICHESTER
New Sculpture at Goodwood
Lynn Chadwick, Anthony Caro and Richard Deacon.
Sculpture at Goodwood.
Hat Hill Copse (01243 538449). Today, 10.30am-4.30pm; £10.

DURHAM
Bill Viola
Site-specific work from the master of the video spectacle.
Durham Cathedral,
Palace Green (0191-384 3720/386 4266). Today, tomorrow, phone for times; free.

EDINBURGH
Velazquez in Seville
Paintings from Velazquez's formative years.
National Gallery of Scotland.
The Mound (0131-556 8921). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2-5pm; £4, concs £2.50.

GLASGOW
Charles Rennie Mackintosh
Key artist, architect and designer's work in retrospect.
McLellan Galleries,
Sauchiehall Street (0141-331 1854). Today, 10am-8pm, tomorrow, 11am-8pm; £4.

LIVERPOOL
Rachel Whiteread
Sculptures from the past Turner Prize winner.
Tate Gallery Liverpool,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £2.50, concs £1.

COMING SOON

■ **LONDON**

From Oct 2
When We Are Married
The Chichester Festival Theatre production of J.B. Priestley's evergreen comedy, starring Dawn French and Alison Steadman, transfers to the West End's Savoy Theatre for an eight-week season. Box office: 0171-836 8888.

Oct 6 and 13
The Blue Nile
In concert at the London Palladium on October 6 and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, on October 13. Box office: 0171-494 5000.

From Oct 8
Night Must Fall
Jason Donovan stars in Emlyn Williams's classic play at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket for a limited season. Box office: 0171-930 8800.

Oct 24-Nov 2
Covent Garden Proms
The 25th annual proms season provides the chance to see the entire current *Ring* cycle for only £60 from a prime location in the orchestra stalls (except that seating is on the floor). Season tickets available by post only; about 200 individual performance tickets will be sold for cash only, one hour before curtain-up on the night. Box office: 0171-304 4000.

■ **REGIONAL**

BRISTOL
Oct 17-Nov 9
Old Wicked Songs
Bob Hoskins returns to the stage for the first time in more than a decade to star in a Pulitzer Prize-nominated American play by Jon Marans at Bristol Old Vic. Box office: 0117-987 7877.

Nationwide: Sting goes on tour in November and December

TOURING
November/December
Sting
The perennial pop star goes on tour to Cardiff International Arena (Nov 26, 01222 230130), Birmingham NEC (Nov 29, 0121-780 4133), Bournemouth International Centre (Dec 2, 01202 297297), Brighton Centre (Dec 3, 01273 202881), Albert Hall (Dec 5-7, 0171-589 8212).

JAZZ

■ **LONDON**

Ruby Braff Quartet
Revivalist swing cornet virtuoso from Boston.
Pizza Express,
Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £20, tomorrow, £15.

Patrick Clahar Quartet
Sparky multi-reedist, formerly of Incognito and the Brand New Heavies, with his groove-based quartet.
Pizza on the Park,
Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tomorrow, 9pm; £12, adv £10.

Georgie Fame
British R & B organist with a strong soul-jazz sensibility.
Ronnie Scott's,
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

Louis Hoover and His 20-Piece Orchestra
Sinatra-style crooner.
Ronnie Scott's,
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

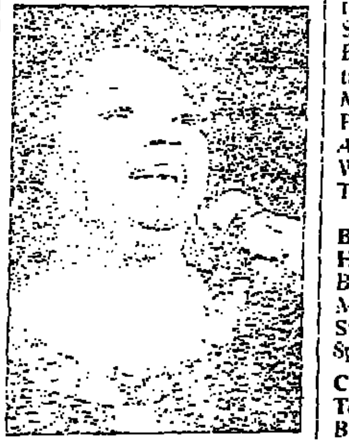
Jam Session
Acid Jazz conference featuring diva Carleen Anderson, funk synth wizard Jessica Lauren, Brand New Heavies guitarist Simon Bartholomew, percussionist Snowboy and Galliano rhythm section of Crispin Taylor and Ernie McKone.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £8.

Annie Ross
British-born American diva, a star of Robert Altman's film, *Short Cuts*.
Café Royal,
Regent Street, W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight, 8pm; £25.

Keith Tippett/Paul Rogers/Paul Rutherford
Triple bill with pianist Tippett, bassist Rogers and trombone maestro Rutherford.
Vortex,
Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Tomorrow, 8pm; £4.

Soho Jazz Festival
The main attractions this opening weekend include Georgie Fame and gospel singer Doris Troy.
Various venues,
W1 (information: 0891 774 775). Tonight (to Oct 6).

Jean Toussaint Band
Hip American tenorist, here with trumpeter Byron Wallen and guitarists Tony Remy and Ciro Brow.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight 7pm; £10.


London: Doris Troy opens the Soho Jazz Festival

Warren Vache Quartet
Clifford Brown-styled neo-swing cornet virtuoso from New Jersey.
Bull's Head,
Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

DENNIS ROWLAND

A combination of Joe Williams and Lou Rawls, the American singer Dennis Rowland has electrified audiences during his debut residency this week. Whether singing the blues or mimicking Satchmo, the former Basie vocalist unites razzle-dazzle showmanship with impeccable musicianship.

Clive Davis

***Pizza on the Park*, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight, 9.15pm and 11.15pm.**

■ **REGIONAL**

BRISTOL
Ted Emmett, Patrick Clahar, Pete Jacobsen
Former Loose Tubes trumpeter leads saxophonists Simon Picard, Steve Buckley and Patrick Clahar, tuba eccentric Oren Marshall and blind pianist Pete Jacobsen.
Albert Inn,
West Street (0117-966 1968). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6, concs £5.

BURY
Helen Watson
Blues, jazz and folk.
Met Arts Centre, Market Street (0161-761 2216). Tonight, 8pm; £6, concs £5.

CHELMSFORD
Tenor Madness
Breathy mainstream conference with tenorists Spike Robinson, Bobby Wellins and John Barnes.
Cramphorn Theatre,
Fairfield Road (01245 460720). Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £7, mems £5.

DERBY
Tim Garland Quartet
Multi-reedist in folk, fusion and bebop, with drummer Winston Clifford, guitarist Phil Robson and bassist Laurence Cottle.
Wherehouse,
Friargate (01332 381169). Tonight, 8pm; £6, concs £4.

Isle of Skye
Melanie O'Reilly
Haunting Irish folk-jazz singer.
Dorie Hall,
(01599 544265). Tonight, 8pm; £6, concs £4.

NEWCASTLE
Tim Garland Quartet
See Derby.
Live Theatre,
Broad Chare, Quayside (0191-232 1232). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6, adv £5.

WICK
Melanie O'Reilly
See Isle of Skye.
Lyth Arts Centre,
(01955 641270). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.

FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

■ **NEW RELEASES**

Don't Forget You're Going to Die
Self-pitying French portrait of an art graduate who tests HIV-positive. Written, directed by and starring Xavier Beauvois.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

◆ **Jane Eyre** (PG)
Decent but bloodless adaptation of the novel, with Charlotte Gainsbourg and William Hurt. Director, Franco Zeffirelli.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) *Notting Hill Coronet* Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) *Richmond* (0181-332 0030) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen/Hill* Ⓢ (0171-435 3366) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527) *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343)

New releases: Charlotte Gainsbourg in *Jane Eyre*

◆ **Last Man Standing** (18)
Bruce Willis plays two bootleg gangs against each other. Movie pastiche from director Walter Hill.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) *MGM Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Plaza* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031) *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343)

◆ **Multiplicity** (12)
Michael Keaton clones himself to solve his hectic life. Crass comic treatment of a bright idea. With Andie MacDowell. Director, Harold Ramis.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) *Leicester Square* (01426-915 683) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

A SUMMER'S TALE (U):
Melvil Poupaud's vacationing student arrives in Dinard to await his girlfriend, only to be lured by other female charms. Eric Rohmer's blissful film offers nothing new: once again the veteran French director focuses on dithering youth, talking away. But the talk flows so freely and the cast are so engaging (especially Amanda Langlet) that you soon fall under its spell. This is cinema at its most delicate, refreshing and humane.

Geoff Brown

***Curzon West End* (0171-369 1722) *Renoir* (0171-837 8402)**

■ **CURRENT**

◆ **Emma** (U)
Gwyneth Paltrow shines in a Jane Austen adaptation that leans too much towards the pretty-pretty. With Jeremy Northam. Director, Douglas McGrath.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Minema* (0171-235 4225) *Odeons: Haymarket* (01426 915353) *Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Renoir* (0171-837 8402) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen/Baker Street* (0171-935 2772) *Screen/Green* (0171-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *Warner* Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **Escape from LA** (15)
Blowsy action film from John Carpenter, set in a lawless Los Angeles of 2013. With Kurt Russell.
Empire (0800-888 911) *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Trocadero* Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

The Great White Hype (15)
Flat-footed sports satire, with Samuel L. Jackson as a flamboyant boxing impresario. Director, Reginald Hudlin.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (15)
Gauche but sweet tale of teenage lesbians, written and directed by Maria Maggenti. With Laurel Holloman and Nicole Parker.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Metro* (0171-437 0757)

◆ **Phenomenon** (PG)
John Travolta's IQ gets a booster shot. Increasingly mawkish comic fantasy. With Kyra Sedgwick. Director, Jon Turtletaub.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *UCI Whiteleys* Ⓢ (0990 888990) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636)

◆ **Stealing Beauty** (15)
Light and enjoyable Bertolucci film about an American teenager's sexual flowering in Tuscany. With Liv Tyler, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) *Odeon Kensington* (01426 914666) *Screen on Baker Street* (0171-935 2772) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

◆ **Striptease** (15)
Demi Moore's stripper seeks custody of her daughter. Clumsy mixture of sex, satire and melodrama, with Burt Reynolds. Director, Andrew Bergman.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426-914 666) *Swiss Cottage* (0171-586 3057) *West End* (01426 915574) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 3332)

THEATRE

■ **LONDON**

Blood Wedding
Alexandra Gilbreath and Jasper Britton play the lovers in Lorca's tragedy. Tim Supple directs a new version by Ted Hughes.
Young Vic,
66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight, 7.30pm.

Cash on Delivery
Comedy performer Bradley Walsh in his first leading West End role. Described as a benefit fraud belly laugh, written by Michael Cooney and directed by his dad, Ray.
Whitehall,
Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Today, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

Faust Parts 1 and 2
Michael Bogdanov's mighty production of Goethe's drama, with Michael Feast in the title role and Hugh Quarshie as Mephistopheles.
The Pit, Barbican,
Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today: Part 1, 2.30pm; Part 2, 7.15pm.

King Lear
Having just directed the Bankside Globe's first production, Jack Shepherd stays in the district to direct Oliver Cotton as Lear, Jan Shepherd as Cordelia.
Southwark Playhouse,
62 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-620 3494). Tonight, 7pm.

London: Michael Feast and Hugh Quarshie in *Faust*

The Oedipus Plays
Alan Howard in the title role of *Oedipus the King* and *Oedipus at Colonus*. Peter Hall directs a translation by Ranjit Bolt.
National (Olivier),
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7pm. In rep.

Variété
Lindsay Kemp's tragic-comic musical is a combination of music, acrobatics and dance in a story of passion, jealousy and betrayal: set in a fairground freak show in 1930s Hamburg.
Hackney Empire,
Mare Street (0181-985 2424). Tonight, 7pm and 9.15pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ASHES TO ASHES

Some reviewers struggled with Harold Pinter's latest play, maybe solving their own bewilderment by accusing the dramatist, not for the first time, of obfuscation. There are tricky, even mannered moments but you cannot miss the aggro between the husband and wife, played by Stephen Rea and Lindsay Duncan, nor fail to be intrigued by the latter's mind, which teems with half-horrified, half-fascinated fantasies of sexual sadism and political cruelty. This is a dense, powerful piece which no admirer of our nation's premiere dramatist will wish to miss.

Benedict Nightingale

***Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (Ambassador's)*, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Tonight, 8pm; mat 4pm.**

■ **REGIONAL**

EXETER
The Belle Vue
British premiere of Odon von Horvath's 1926 play, Kenneth McLeish's version of *Zur schönen Aussicht*. Greed and exploitation in a run-down hotel, with Ann Firbank as an elderly nymphomaniac. Nick Philippou directs for Actors Touring Company.
Northcott,
Stocker Road, Pennsylvania (01392 493493). Tonight, 8pm.

GLASGOW
Hamlet
Philip Prowse's production, with Cal MacAninch as the Prince, Sophie Ward as Ophelia, Ann Mitchell as Gertude and Robert Gwilym as Claudius.
Citizens,
Gorbals (0141-429 5561). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LEEDS
Office Suite
Two more of Alan Bennett's television plays take to the stage in *Green Forms* and *A Visit from Miss Prothero*. Jennie Darnell directs Susan Wooldridge, Paola Dionisotti and Timothy Bateman.
Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse,
The Quarry, Hill Mount (0113-244 2111). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 3pm.

POOLE
The Trouble with Old Lovers
Simon Ward leads a distinguished cast in Angela Huth's perceptive comedy of manners. Directed by Robert Chetwyn.
Towngate,
Poole Arts Centre, Kingland Road (01202 685222). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 2.30pm.

On a troubled day for Catholics, **Ruth Gledhill** attended a joyful celebration

Holding on to spiritual values

THE carved wooden station of the cross above my head, depicting Jesus "laden with his cross", was a reminder in Hampstead, north London, that day that Christianity can be as much about suffering as rejoicing. This has been particularly so for the Roman Catholic Church this week, coming to terms with the incredible behaviour of its errant bishop, "Roddy" Wright. But at St Mary's, no such difficulties were to be permitted to sully a day of celebration. "It's a sad day for the church," I suggested to the parish priest, on the day that the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles's story appeared in the *News of the World*. "No, it's a joyful day," he insisted. "We are celebrating 200 years."

This church, founded for refugees who landed here in 1796, was built deliberately in an unobtrusive spot among rows of ivy-clad cottages, a hidden beauty predating the Catholic emancipation of 1829. It seemed ironic that the day of the anniversary at St Mary's should coincide with a day when Catholics and much they hold dear, such as a celibate priesthood, were once again under siege. The scent of Floris perfume hung heavy in the air as the stylishly dressed congregation wore expressions of defiance mixed with grief and joy in a church crowded to bursting point — so crowded, in fact, that the procession to and from the altar rail during communion resembled the M25 in the rush hour. My neighbour, the charming Elizabeth Fallon, a parishioner for 40 years, noted with pride the arrival of local community leaders, a councillor here, a headmaster there. But on this day the star was our celebrant, the Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Basil Hume, whose shining white hair beneath the sparkling apse of the sanctuary resembled a halo circling his red cardinal's hat.

We confessed our sins, and Cardinal Hume pleaded with God to have mercy on us. After the gospel reading, incorporating the *Magnificat* sung by the choir, the Cardinal preached. Not once did he refer to the runaway bishop, but I could not help meditating on the wider application of his words as he spoke.

"A church, just by being what it is and where it is, is a witness," he said. "It witnesses and speaks on spiritual values, the primacy of God, the centrality of Christ and his gospel." He added: "The words Peter spoke come to mind. We are a chosen race, we are a royal priesthood, we are a high nation, we are God's own people, set apart." However sinful we had been, he said, "we have been baptised, we hold our heads high". He continued: "We, the baptised community, must give witness to spiritual values. They must be what is most important for each of us individually, and therefore for us as a community. Witness to spiritual values. Think how necessary it is in our society which can be so materialistic, can be so forgetful of God."

We tried to remember God, prayed for the Pope and for family life. We sat back and enjoyed the offerings of the choir and organ through communion, including Maurice Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas*. We joined in with David Evans's inspiring communion hymn, *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*. And it worked because, as we tumbled out into the leafy sunshine of Holly Place, the spectre of the runaway Roddy Wright seemed nothing more than a fading blot on a beautiful, enduring landscape.

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Holly Place, Church Row, Hampstead (0171-435 6678).

AT YOUR SERVICE

☆ *A five-star guide* ★

PRIEST: The Rev Michael Brockie

ARCHITECTURE: Pretty church built in 1816. White walls and goldleaf, marble and mosaic designs in the sanctuary and chapels ★★★★

HOMILY: A calming meditation on the importance of spiritual values and the church's witness to the world ★★★

MUSIC: Martin Stacey on the organ accompanied the choir, who sang with splendour ★★★★★

LITURGY: Modern Catholic communion rite ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Sense of wrongs being righted ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Chance to shake hands with the Cardinal at reception in parish rooms ★★★★

DON'T MISS . . .

■ Radio 3 celebrated, including the premiere of Colin Matthews's epic *Renewal*. See Classical

■ Rachel Whiteread in Liverpool: striking collection from the Turner Prize winner. See Galleries

■ The whole *Ring* cycle at Covent Garden for only £60 — if you sit on the floor. See Coming Soon

CHRISTMAS SAFARI IN CAPE TOWN WITH THE CHILDREN
Page 17

A vet writes . . .

That goose is not so silly

Tomorrow is Michaelmas Day, once the most important day of the farming year. A Michaelmas goose topped the harvest festival menu. Geese, fattened on grain shed on the stubbles, walked to goose fairs. Slowly. Eight miles a day. Regular feeding stops allowed the birds to top-up with oats or barley and stay fat. The sick and footsore completed the journey in the comfort of a one horse-power goose ambulance.

Geese are excellent watchdogs. They honked and hissed to wake the guards and save Rome from the Gauls. They are employed by whisky bonds and distilleries in Scotland as non-electric burglar alarms and environmentally friendly lawn mowers. Five geese eat as much as a sheep.

They need space. Geese produce generous quantities of smelly, semi-liquid droppings and have big, webbed feet. This combination converts a small garden into a stinking swamp in a few weeks. A half-acre orchard or paddock can support a trio of geese (one he and two shes).

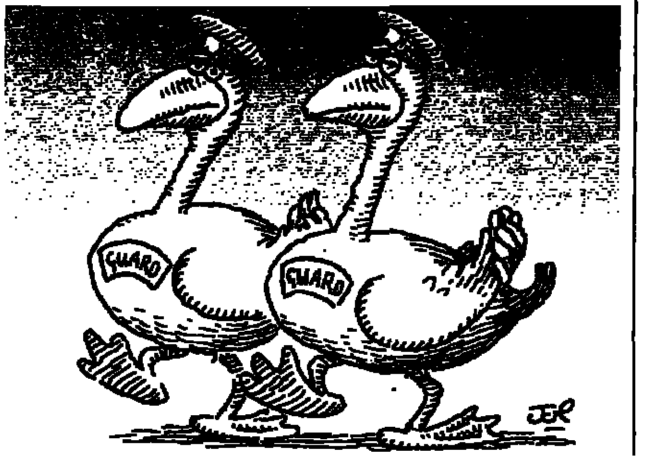
They have simple needs. Sleeping quarters should be wind, water and fox-proof. In spring and summer they will get by on grass alone, but a daily snack of corn is appreciated. When the grass stops growing, poultry pellets, crushed barley and surplus greens keep them fit.

Geese like water: ideally a pond or river, but a zinc bath tub, sunk into the ground, is an acceptable substitute. Given the choice, geese mate in water — something to do with buoyancy. However, birds confined to dry land produce fertile eggs. Love finds a way.

Geese mate for life — till death them do part — though one gander may have a multi-goose harem. He will defend his family against all comers. Foxes are the main cause of mortality. Otherwise geese have few health problems. Fox-free geese will live for 20 years.

Think twice before becoming a goose-keeper, however. If you are converted, start in the spring. Buy a gander and two geese. It's not easy to sort out the hims from the hers — both sexes look the same. "Geese books" will tell you to examine the bird's vent (at the rear end) but first you have to catch your bird, holding it still, with a book in the other hand, and not knowing what's what. I don't. But I do know that if three geese are in a pen, the one which stretches its neck out furthest, hisses loudest, and protects the other two is the gander. Chivalry is not restricted to human males.

JAMES ALLCOCK



DAVID GRAVES

A Pyrenean Mountain bitch with her litter. Many pedigree breeds are prone to inherited disorders, but DNA testing can help to eliminate the problems in future generations

Bringing up a healthier breed

DNA tests not only help breeders to identify the parentage of pedigree animals but can detect and help to eliminate diseases that affect them

Paternity tests for dogs may sound like shutting the door after the hound has bolted but DNA tests can offer owners and breeders more than a means of identifying puppies. Advances in genetic research are giving us the potential to detect, treat and possibly eliminate certain human diseases, and these techniques are important for animal science.

The Animal Health Trust at Newmarket, Suffolk, has completed its first year of paternity testing on dogs and is researching several genetically linked disorders. "Inherited diseases, transmitted from one generation to the next are a major problem in many breeds of pedigree dogs," says Matthew Binns, the head of the trust's genetics section. "They include eye problems, blood disorders, and orthopaedic problems such as hip dysplasia. Even some cancers may have a genetic element."

Many diseases have a recessive pattern of inheritance. This means that two copies of the defective gene (one inherited from the mother and one from the father) must be present for the individual to have the disease. Many healthy dogs are carriers of diseases (having one good gene and one defective gene). If two such "healthy" dogs mate there is a one in four chance of them producing an affected pup.

Relatively little is known about genetic illnesses in dogs, and scientists are looking at human problems as a guide.

More than 350 inherited disorders have been identified in the dog and every year several more are discovered. Developing genetic screening tests for identifying carriers and pups with potential late onset disease could enable the eradication of several canine diseases over the next decade by selective breeding.

Many of the diseases are breed-specific. "We have completed tests that can screen for carriers of diseases such as progressive retinal atrophy, an eye disease in the Irish setter, and copper toxicosis, a liver disease in the Bedlington terrier," Dr Binns says.

"For diseases that have a late onset [such as many eye diseases] it is particularly advantageous to have a test that can identify the problem at an early stage. The charity Guide Dogs for the Blind has been interested in our work and is assisting with funding, because retrievers and labradors have a predisposition towards several inherited diseases that emerge in later life. This is important not only because of the amount of time and money invested in training a guide dog but because the guide dog and owner usually develop a very close relationship and it is tragic when the guide dog becomes prematurely ill at six or seven years of age."

The Animal Health Trust receives several calls a day about parentage of pedigree dogs. Most are from breeders worried that their bitch on heat has been in contact with more than one male dog. The trust has also resolved disputes in which owners have had doubts about the parentage of their pedigree dog and assisted the trading standards offices when they have expressed concern over the claims of some dog breeders.

To check the parentage, DNA samples are taken from the dogs; from one of several sources, such as blood, hair roots or nail clippings. The DNA pattern produced from the parents is compared with the offspring and can usually provide conclusive results.

DNA samples have also been used in court to establish ownership of birds and to prove that rare birds, such as the peregrine falcon, have been stolen from the wild rather than being home-reared as claimed.

VetGen Europe, a laboratory which has pioneered the application of DNA technology in birds, sexes birds which to us look identical. "Before genetic testing, the determining of the sex of many species of bird required them to undergo surgery," says Peter Scott, the company's veterinary director. "DNA testing allows the simple collection of a blood sample to be examined without risk to the bird.

"Our clients include the ravens at the Tower of London, and hopefully this will ensure there are enough pairs of birds to breed and avoid the prophecy that the tower will collapse if the ravens disappear."

VetGen Europe holds DNA samples of about 18,000 individual birds and has become involved in several cases to prove ownership. Most have been resolved outside court on the basis of the DNA analysis provided, but VetGen has also testified in court.

The company deals with disputes involving other animals, too. "We had one case in which a pedigree German shepherd bitch was sent to be mated. When the puppies were born they were small and misformed. The owner of the bitch was convinced her dog had been mated with a basset hound. We did DNA testing on the supposed German shepherd father. This proved that he was, in fact, the real dad and that both parents were carriers of achondroplasia, a disease which produces the human equivalent of dwarfs in dogs."

One of the more challenging paternity cases that Dr Binns pursued concerned a hunting beagle from good stock which produced five puppies. "We were asked to confirm the "unknown" father from 17 potential stud dogs," Dr Binns says. "After extensive testing it transpired that none of the 17 dogs could be the father.

"The owners then admitted rather sheepishly that there were another two possible fathers, and that there had been a third candidate who had recently died."

JOYCE BLAKE

- *VetGen Europe, Box 60, Winchester, Hampshire (01962 886090, fax 01962 881790). The Animal Health Trust, Box 5, Newmarket, Suffolk (01638 661111, fax 01638 665789).*

PET NEWS

Why puddle tastes best

DOES YOUR pet refuse fresh tap water and drink from puddles, watering cans or even lavatories? This is probably because they do not like the taste of chlorinated water and prefer water that has been left to stand. Dishwater, according to the October issue of *All About Cats*, has the added attraction of dissolved fats and oils from unwashed plates.

Cat's play

MY SEARCH for a toy which will turn mature cats into playful kittens led Jean Dundas, of Kirriemuir, Angus, to write: "My long-haired, colourpoint Persian, Leo (honey-coloured, orange eyes), likes playing with a cardboard box from the grocer. We cut windows in the box and prod through paper 'cigarettes' or string. Once he or we tire of the game, he'll go to sleep in the box."

Bunny tug

I ASKED readers to be on the lookout for people taking pet rabbits for walks on a lead. Annabel Jones, aged 13, of Kendal, Cumbria, writes: "My black, lop-eared Golly loves his walks and charges along, pulling on the pink, velvet harness, and shows no fear of cats or dogs. In the sitting room, he dashes about chasing our cats, finally leaping on to someone's knee when he is tired."

Giving a hoot

BARN OWLS in the wild are on their way to extinction, with cars speeding in country lanes often to blame. But keeping barn owls in captivity is expanding "at a terrific rate", reports Graham Wellstead in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. The owls are simple to hand-rear, grow strong and will remain tame all their lives. He warns against releasing the young of captive barn owls into the wild, because few of them survive.

Super bowl

NEW PRODUCTS: A boon to those who travel with pets is a non-spill bowl which ensures that water cannot spill even when driving over rough terrain. It costs £1.20 at pet stores, or contact Bef products on 01543 415999. Another good idea is The Untangler: a magnifying glass fitted with forceps which eases the removal of ticks and other parasites from animals — and splinters from humans. This costs £5.78 from pet shops.

JACK CROSSLEY

Last of the flying butchers

Feather report

A GRISLY sight that was once common in Britain was the butcher bird's larder. A decaying collection of moths, dragonflies and small birds were impaled on the thorns of a gorse bush, or even on a barbed wire fence. Nearby sat the butcher — a red-backed shrike, with its chestnut mantle, grey and black head and hooked beak. This was its store of food.

Now the red-backed shrike is officially extinct as a breeding bird in this country. Its numbers have been dwindling since the end of the 19th century. A few lingered on in East Anglia around Breckland on the Norfolk/Suffolk border in the 1970s and 1980s, but in 1989, for the first time, not a single breeding pair was recorded in England.

Since then, there have been occasional reports of them nesting, some of them in Scotland, but it is thought that these were birds heading in the spring for France or Scandinavia that had lost their way. However, a few pass through annually on migration, and this is probably the best week in the year to see one. Birdline (see below) has given news of a number of sightings in the past few days. They are still abundant across much of Europe and Asia and the general view is that the range of the species as a whole has shifted eastwards for some unknown reason. We were always on the edge of its range and now, if that is right, we seem to have fallen off the edge of it.

It has also been suggested that the large flying insects that shrikes like feeding on are more scarce. Shrikes are well adapted to catching those. They just sit waiting on a hedgerow twig, fanning and vibrating their tail, then dart out at the passing insects and grab them with their lethal beak. When they seize small birds, such as goldfinches, they impale them on the thorns by the neck.

If you are not lucky enough to cross the path of a red-backed shrike this autumn, you have the chance of seeing another shrike during the winter. A few great grey shrikes always take up their territories here around the turn of the year — and sometimes keep a winter larder on the bare thorns.

PETER BROWN

Red-backed shrike; now just a passing visitor to Britain

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — lots of wildfowl, especially wigeon and teal on inland waters. Twitchers — Blyth's reed warbler and tawny pipit at Stiffkey, Norfolk; American golden plover at Holy Island, Northumberland; red-breasted flycatcher on Shetland. Details from birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times*

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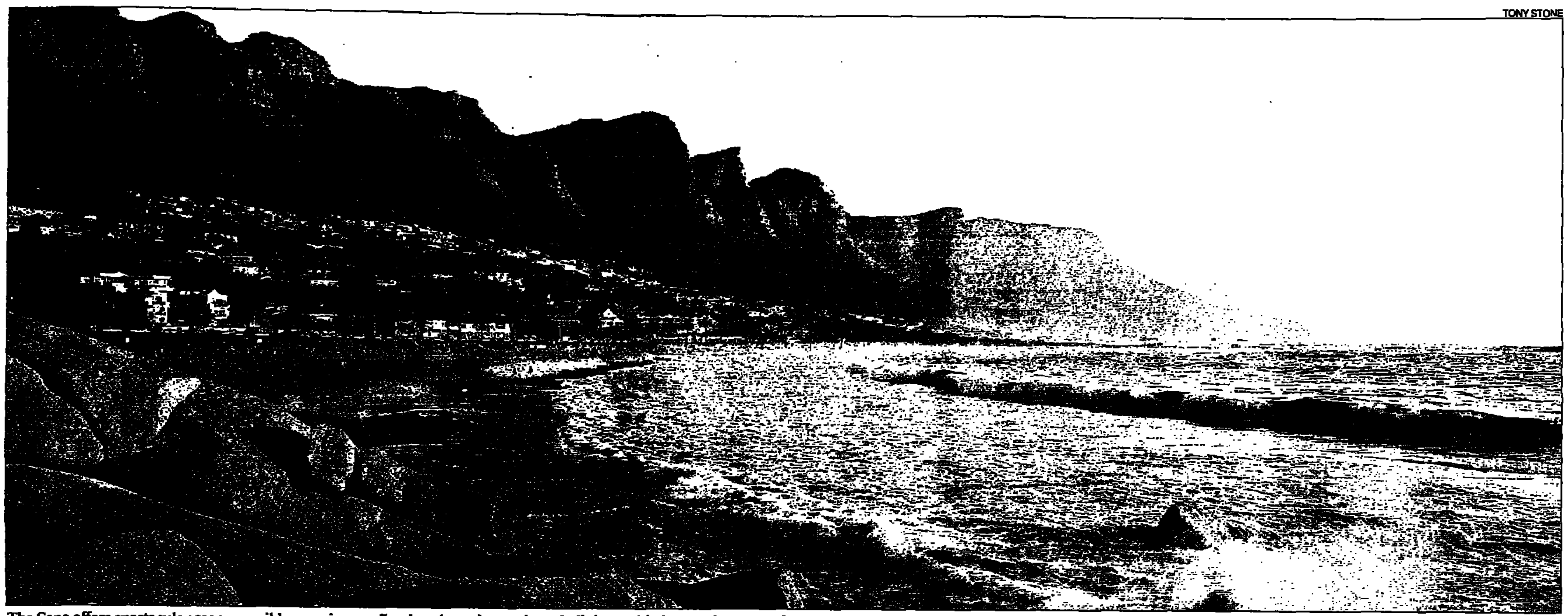
صورة من الاصل

South Africa: Encounters with big cats, bigots, red rivers and rabbit cures en route from Jo'burg to the Cape



TONY STONE

The Cape offers spectacular scenery, wild penguins, surfing beaches, vineyards and all the sophisticated pleasures of Cape Town. But think twice before attempting the gruelling ascent of Table Mountain

Face to face with the lion king

We left London on December 9, the day before ticket prices doubled for Christmas. We were four adults and five children, embarking on an odyssey that would take us from the malarial outback of the northern Transvaal to the temperate sophistication of the Cape. We booked through a tour operator based in Fulham, who promised us a varied holiday which would cater to a five year-old, teenagers and thirtysomethings without costing us a second mortgage.

Our night flight disgorged us in Jo'burg untroubled by jet lag. We drove through emerald flatlands into bauxite hills where mineheads loomed out of the mist like vast cubist Christmas trees.

A four-hour drive took us to the edge of Kruger National Park, an expanse of bushveld larger than Israel. As we arrived at Matumbi game reserve, the loudness and strangeness of bush noise assaulted our ears. The children swam in a heated pool. Kingfishers, woodpeckers and frogs vied for our attention with an orange millipede and a tame impala foal. We slept in basic but comfortable cottages and ate delicious steaks.

On our first expedition in an open-topped Land Cruiser we saw kudu, zebra and blue wildebeest. The children were enchanted by a two-kilo tortoise with asparagus-tip feet. A ranger walked us through dense green thickets until we caught sight of a family of giraffe in the clearing beyond. In Kruger Park, lion see a Land Cruiser and its passengers as a single threatening object. But stand up or leave the vehicle and you become a target. We edged along a lane through the bush, passing pairs of lion dozing in the sun. We turned a corner and the ranger stopped the vehicle, whispering for us to be still. Ten feet away a young lion licked his chops. Make that two lions — or four, rather. After a minute we could see a pride of 16, all within munching range of our children. At the whir of a camera's wind-on, the nearest lion tensed and roared. The ranger floored the accelerator and we surged away, adrenalin pumping.

Seeing game in the wild and at close quarters is magnificent, humbling and terrifying. After that first day in the bush, I read the following lines of Rilke's: "We, only, can see death; the free animal/ has its decline behind it, forever/ and God before, and when it moves, it moves/ already in eternity, like a fountain".

Our sighting of the lions beat even the cheap thrill of riding a trained ostrich bareback or stroking tame cheetahs (both of which we did). The more you risk, the more of Africa you experience.

After toasting a heart-wrenching sunset over the Drakensberg mountains, we boarded the Trans-Karoo express for a 25-hour trundle, without air conditioning, across a desert and two mountain ranges. The stars filled a broad sky as we conversed with bigots ("Mandela? All he does is fly around the world shaking hands while the blacks get free utilities. And what about the wife?") and witnessed the overflow of a knife-fight from third class.

The next afternoon we drove east along the Garden Route from Cape Town. The weather systems on the Cape are so localised that you can travel through storm and shine as you speed from one bay to the next. Our 36-hour dash across country ended in Knysna, a town of wood-framed houses built on a lagoon which drains, via a channel flanked by two massive headlands, into the Indian Ocean.

We were booked into the Old Drift Forest Lodges, described with justifiable pride by their proprietor as "Heaven on Earth".

Arriving in darkness, we awoke next morning to the sight of a red river and the tide running out over rocks. The seven forest lodges are set far apart in a wilderness where birds nest and silence reigns. Knysna lagoon cruises are to be avoided unless you fancy a geriatric crooner recycling, from behind his Hammond organ, a litany of birthday greetings and bonhomous mumbo-jumbo.

Instead, book early for the forest lodges and paddle in a canoe across water red from the bauxite hills through which it flows. Swim from a crescent of river-beach, surrounded by the deep stillness of African wilderness and relax as children try to drown each other in relative safety.

Kleinmond, 80 kilometres east of Cape Town, is a collection of bungalows in which the rotten fences of apartheid are poorly concealed under the bunting of democracy. Its houses can be rented for a third of Cape Town prices. Our large seafront villa boasted table tennis and snooker but the kitchen was a disgrace.

The place was crummy, yet it served as a base — and the money saved during ten days in Kleinmond paid for the earlier weeks in Knysna and Kruger. Kleinmond nature reserve is a beautiful area of wilderness surrounding a warm, shallow lagoon where the girls splashed and paddled all day. When the tide goes out, half-draining the lagoon, the exposed sand steams up a mist which the ferocious sun soon burns off.

Rain in Kleinmond prompted my wife's battle-cry — "dial freephone Hilton" — and forced our flexible friend to put us up in a Cape Town hotel for three days. If you like to stay in one area for your holiday, choose the Cape, where wild penguins (at Simon's Town), surfing beaches, an Imax cinema, vineyards and the city nightlife of Cape Town are separated by a mere hour's drive.

We ate Christmas lunch at a house in Llandudno, the Cap d'Antibes of Cape Town, where pale mansions are badged with promises of armed response. We tried to pretend that it was not raining.

On Boxing Day morning, clear skies beckoned us to the top of the town for an assault on Table Mountain. What looked like a quick stroll turned into three hours of gruelling ascent. Exhausted children, goaded upwards by promises of cold drinks and chocolate, wept and complained. Fit to weep ourselves, we told them that, as in life generally, sometimes you just have to go on.

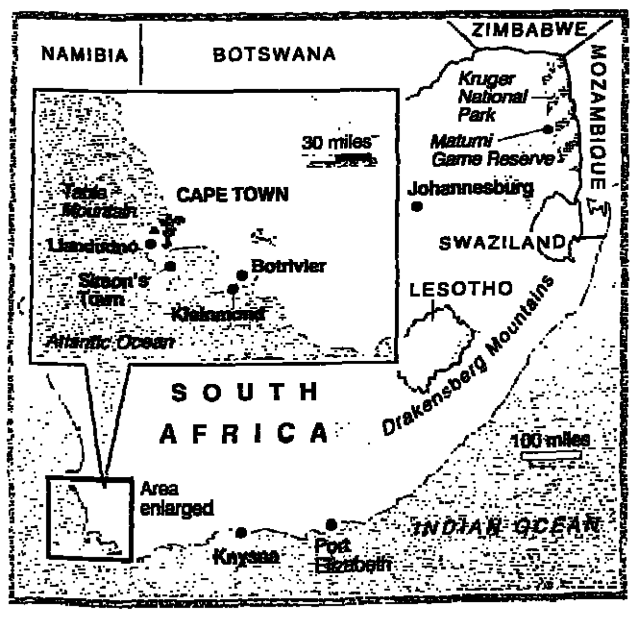
At the peak their endurance was rewarded by the sight of mountain rabbits, a short queue for the cable-car and a stupid argument among the supposed grown-ups. Young Natasha bought a jar of rabbit urine, alleged to harbour medicinal properties, and offered it to the disaffected adults.

Our differences settled and encouraged by the outdoor triumph of Boxing Day, we planned a trek for New Year's Eve. In nearby Botrivier, alarmingly frisky horses conveyed us to a creek where children swam while adults barbecued supper over an open fire.

The return home, after dark, spiralled into nightmare. A pony-trap carrying the youngest children was overturned by its panicked driver. Nervous riders unsettled horses which began to buck, back off and wheel out of control. My wife was kicked, full force, on the arm she raised to protect our daughter's head. As midnight signalled the birth of the New Year, we were racing to a hospital for X-rays.

That night ride was our final brush with danger. We were feeling grateful, as we flew out of Cape Town, to be returning home with no permanent injuries. Safe on the ground in London, we concluded that the holiday, like its risks, had been well worth taking.

NICK McDOWELL



SOUTH AFRICA FACT FILE

■ Tim Best Travel, 68 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LQ (0171-591 0300) will tailor packages to include flights and all ground arrangements throughout Africa. The trip described in this article cost £10,696.50 for four adults and five children for 26 days at 1995-96 prices.

■ The author flew with British Airways to Johannesburg. Cape Town flights book up more quickly for Christmas. They also flew one-way from Cape Town to Jo'burg on their way home, which cost about £80 per adult.

■ 1996 prices up to Dec 9, then after) for London-Jo'burg-London (adult return). Virgin: £830 then £987. BA: £830 then £987. Air Portugal: £590 then £685.
Children pay 67 per cent of the above prices, infants 10 per cent.

■ Transkaroo Express: One-way Jo'burg to Cape Town (Wagon Lit): Adult: £49; Child: £24.50.

■ Accommodation: Matumbi Game Lodge B&B: £38 per adult per night; child £19 (PO Box 57, Klasserie 1381 Tel: 00 27 1528 31518). Safari Lodge B&B: £29 per adult per night; child £14.50. Tanda Tula Bush Camp, Kruger National Park: £210 per person per night, fully inclusive. Old Drift Forest Lodges: £110 per night for two adults and three children, extra children charged at £10 per night. Each lodge sleeps between four and five people.

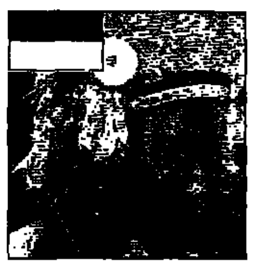
■ Weather: Christmas is South Africa's summer holiday. Sunshine and rain, heat and cold alternate with bewildering frequency. The burn time is down to 15 minutes on a hot (30C) day. Expect a mixture of storm and shine.

■ Medication: Northern Transvaal is malarial. Malaria pills need to be started well before the holiday begins. Hepatitis B and Tetanus jabs are recommended. See your GP for advice.

■ Other information: Food, fuel and activities cost 40-70 per cent of UK prices. Car hire costs £55 per day for a Toyota Corolla, fully inclusive via Avis. An International Driving Licence is required (AA shops sell them).
South African Tourist Board 24-hr brochure request line: 0541 550044

Of all animal species to be seen in game parks, lions are surely the most awesome

TRAVEL DIRECTORY



INDONESIA

Beautiful Bali is hard to beat — but then there's lovely Lombok

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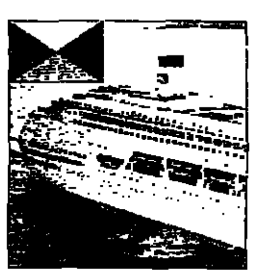

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PAGE 20

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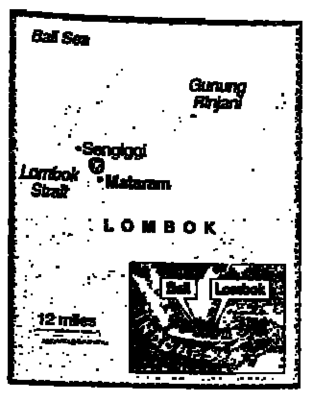
Indonesia: Spectacular sunsets on the island of Lombok — but watch out for monkey pickpockets…



TONY STONE

Lombok has a rare attraction all its own, a happy place for children and adults alike — and one to which even the people of Bali cross for some peace and quiet. Many travellers would prefer to keep it a secret

Getaway isle for island lovers

With apologies to Bali-lovers, who have long sought to keep it to themselves, it is time to let the rest of the world in on an increasingly open secret: the delights of the lush tropical island of *Lombok*, just a 20-minute hop by air from Denpasar.

It's more than worth the extra effort, and a few extra days on to your holiday, to escape the mainland bustle for remoter charms that cannot, unfortunately, long remain so comparatively unspoilt.

Just to the east of Bali, across the Lombok strait, this lively volcanic island, about 40 miles wide by 50 long, has for some time been a mecca for backpackers, who rent motor scooters and take their chances on its few dusty, bustling roads.

Since the relatively recent arrival of Sheraton and other swish hotel chains, however, it can now cater for the most sophisticated world travellers in the style to which they are accustomed. As a result, Lombok has seen its tourist visitors grow to about a quarter of a million a year since it first started tempting them across from an increasingly crowded Bali in 1990.

The island's two million people, an unusual combination of Muslim-Sasak and Hindu-Balinese, open their arms and their homes to visitors, sharing the simplicity of their traditional way of life in village tours more authentic than most in that part of the world.

You soon get used to the clutches of sweet-faced, rupia-hungry children who swarm around you in helpless giggles as you are explore their very basic community life, watching back-breaking production lines endlessly producing pottery, hand-woven cloth and other ethnic fare at embarrassingly cheap prices. Haggling, of course, is the order of the day. Now adorning my kitchen table is a stylish, hand-painted clay fruit bowl which cost me all of £1.

For the hardier spirits, there is the arduous, but adventurous, two-and-a-half-mile trek through a tropical rainforest and on up Gunung Rinjani, the active volcano in the north of the island, looking south towards a landscape of lush and fertile alluvial plains. A more accessible attraction is the nearby monkey park, where my backpacking son had his wallet pinched by a pickpocketing primate. For the price of a banana, the monkey nipped back up his tree and returned it.

For those intent primarily on rest and relaxation, Lombok offers all the usual aquatic delights of Indonesia, including some of the best scuba-diving in the region.

Rent one of those motor-scooters, take your life in your hands, and you can explore an array of virgin beaches on the island's southern coast, beside which you can eat and drink your fill of tasty home cooking and rum punch for a handful of coins. Beach rooms are also available at barely a fiver a night.

By night you can dine very cheaply and well, either with your feet in the sand, or at a variety of ethnic restaurants in the island's endearingly rackety capital, Mataram, to which all roads lead.

Lombok nightlife is fairly basic, pretty much what you choose to make of it, as I discovered when I found myself swept off with a group of Euro-visitors to a nightclub called the Marina, where a few drinks emboldened us all to take turns onstage, belting out old- Beatles numbers with the eager local disco band.

For those fond of their creature comforts, more content to spend their evenings dining in quiet style beneath the Indonesian stars, a cluster of upmarket Western-style hotels has gathered around the dark volcanic sands of Lombok's main resort, Sengiggi Beach, in the dry southwest of the island, 20 minutes from the airport. Each offers the distinctive lure of the *berugak*, those uniquely pampering personal pavilions where tired city muscles are destressed in the open air, to the caress of warm eastern breezes, by some of the most expert masseuses on earth.

Lombok is the home of the *berugak*, which you now see dotted all over Indonesia, and the finger-cracking, toe-snapping, neck-creaking arts of the locals are so beguiling that you'll find yourself content to believe their claim that massage itself was also invented here. The jewel in Lombok's crown is the Sheraton Sengiggi Resort, equally luxurious sibling of the two stylish Sheratons in Bali.

All 150 of the hotel's air-conditioned rooms have balconies overlooking the Indian Ocean, whose warm embrace is but a few sandy steps from a huge and exotic pool, beside which a different genre of international cuisine is served *al fresco* each evening.

Before you leave the pool to change for dinner, however, be sure to try a Lombok Sunset in the swim-up bar. It's quite as spectacular and powerful as the real thing.

ANTHONY HOLDEN

Something in you is drawn to a world where drinking & driving has entered ancient tradition.

Indonesia, a world of extraordinary spectacle.

Indonesia has more than 300 cultures, each with its own rites and festivals, across 17,000 islands. On Madura, the special diet for racing bulls is eggs, chilli and honey – washed down with strong beer. The bulls, not obviously affected, can reach 50 kph in the traditional festival race called *karapan sapi*. On the island of Sumba, worms rising from the sea are the signal for ranks of horsemen to engage in furious mock battle, in a rite called *pasola*. These unique festivals, and more, are played out against some of Nature's most incredible creations: volcanic landscapes, lush plains, turquoise seas. For holiday information, mail the coupon to: Indonesia Tourist Promotion Office, PO Box 486, Weybridge, Surrey, United Kingdom KT1 5 2YF.

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… and to appreciate Bali, turn away from the sea and the pre-packed tourist industry and head inland

Sights beyond the beaches

INDONESIA's jungles, volcanoes and coral reefs, its extensive wildlife and the world's largest archipelago of about 17,000 islands spanning seven seas, and several civilisations, are attracting an increasing number of holidaymakers prepared to venture beyond Bali's beaches. Tours with a difference include:

THE SPICE ISLANDS: Until mid-November, seven or eight-day voyages on the *Spice Islander* leave Bali every week for the islands of Nusa and Tenggara, visiting Lombok, Flores, Komodo, Sumbawa — where the last slaves were freed only in 1959 — as far as West Timor, where Captain Bligh lived after the mutiny. Prices are from £1,879 (excluding international flights) from Asia World Travel (01932 820050), which can tailor-make individual tours.

TRIBES, TEMPLES AND LONGHOUSES: Explore Worldwide (01252 319448) offers a 17-day escorted expedition with a week in northern Sumatra, travelling through rainforests to Lake Toba, to visit the Toba Batak tribe and their strange Batak longhouses with roofs shaped like horns of cattle. The second week includes a flight to Sulawesi, home of the seafaring Buginese traders, exploring Lake Tempe by longtail boat, then moving on to the highlands of Tana Toraja, where effigies are built into the steep cliffs. The cost of £1,595 includes flights and B&B accommodation.

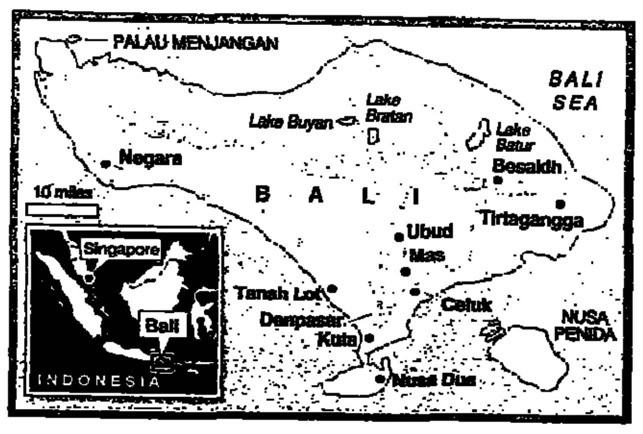
TORAJALAND: Many of Indonesia's highlights are included in the 15-day escorted journey to Torajaland from Bales Tours (01306 88 5923) in which holidaymakers travel through Java to the great 8th-century Buddhist Temple of Borobodur, climb Mount Bromo volcano on horseback, stay in Bali's artistic centre, Ubud, and then fly to Sulawesi to see the city port of Ujung Pandun and explore Torajaland. The cost of £1,580 includes all flights, some meals, accommodation and sightseeing.

CRUISE: A three-night cruise (from £368 for full board but excluding flights) on the 4,00-tonne *Bali Sea Dancer* is available year round from Premier Holidays (01787 884031). Highlights are Lombok, the island of Badas, and Komodo, home of the 3,000 "dragons" — the primeval-looking, fork-tongued lizards that can devour a wild boar.

BALI BY BIKE: A 15-day exploration of Bali by bicycle, offered by Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612), reaches the remote east coast, where tourists rarely venture. The tour costs £540 (excluding international air fares), which covers guesthouse accommodation, cycle hire, vehicle support and a guide.

JILL CRAWSHAW

Where the gods go on holiday



When Dutch sailors reached Bali's tropical shores in 1597 they mutinied and refused to leave. Many followed, seeking a spell of paradise on earth. The golden sands and swaying palms have since been packaged — from the fashionable fat cats' Nusa Dua to the crass commercialism of Kuta, with its fun-in-the-sun clubs and cocktail bars, where it is easy to feel that Bali, island of the gods, is paradise lost.

To appreciate the beauty of the island, turn away from the sea. The Balinese believe it harbours evil spirits and so look to the interior, spiritual and cultural heartland of Bali. I headed first to Besakih, the temple perched high in the volcanic mountain range. Religion is the life blood of this land. Practising an animist Hinduism, the Balinese devote hours to religious rituals and festivals.

It is impossible not to stumble across processions of women clothed in gold-shot finery carrying offerings of exotic fruit and flowers to black-thatched shrines. Warm perfumed nights, made bright with torches, clamour with the beat of temple drums and crash of cymbals.

> 'Women offer fruit at thatched shrines'

Commercialism around temples can be intrusive: early evening at Besakih is peaceful, as most travellers have left and the hawkers are packing up: but at Tanah Lot, where tourists bristling with camcorders arrive to film the spectacular sunset, hawkers ply their wares energetically.

The Balinese venerate their gods in painting, sculpture, music and dance. Ubud, deep in the fertile lowlands, is the cultural heartland of Bali. Galleries and shops crammed with carvings, silver jewellery and batik crowd the streets. It is a good idea to travel to Ubud via the craft centres of Batubulan, Celuk and Mas to see silversmiths and artisans at work, although prices seem higher here. When buying a painting, seek out and deal directly with the artist. You are expected to bargain for everything and negotiations are good-humoured. Many visit Ubud simply to watch the troupes of graceful Balinese dancers who perform for tourists. Unfortunately, the tourist industry of Bali tends to sell culture too hard — tickets for cremations are perhaps the worst example.

Most Balinese, however, are friendly and hospitable and are quite likely to invite visitors to family ceremonies — tooth-fillings, weddings and funerals, or to temple ceremonies where the music and dance are inspired by the spirit of a real occasion.

Before sliding into cultural overload, hire a bicycle in Ubud and pedal away from it all through paddy fields of emerald green where women thresh sheaves of rice and duck shepherds bring their broods to paddle and feed. Stop in villages to eat sweetmeats in warungs or food stalls, and drink coconut water from the freshly cut green fruit.

To explore further afield, hire a Jeep in Kuta where competition is strong. Bemos, the public minibuses crowded with local people and market produce, lose their charm over long distances. There are also tourist shuttle buses to areas of interest.

Head north and you find yourself in a mountainous landscape of forests, deep lakes and temples soaring for the skies. From the slopes of Mount Batur, descend helter-skelter through the lunar landscape of a volcanic crater to Lake Batur, whose waters lap shores of frozen lava. Row across to Kuban where the Bali Aga people lay out their dead to decompose, or stagger up the crusty sides of the inner, dormant volcano.

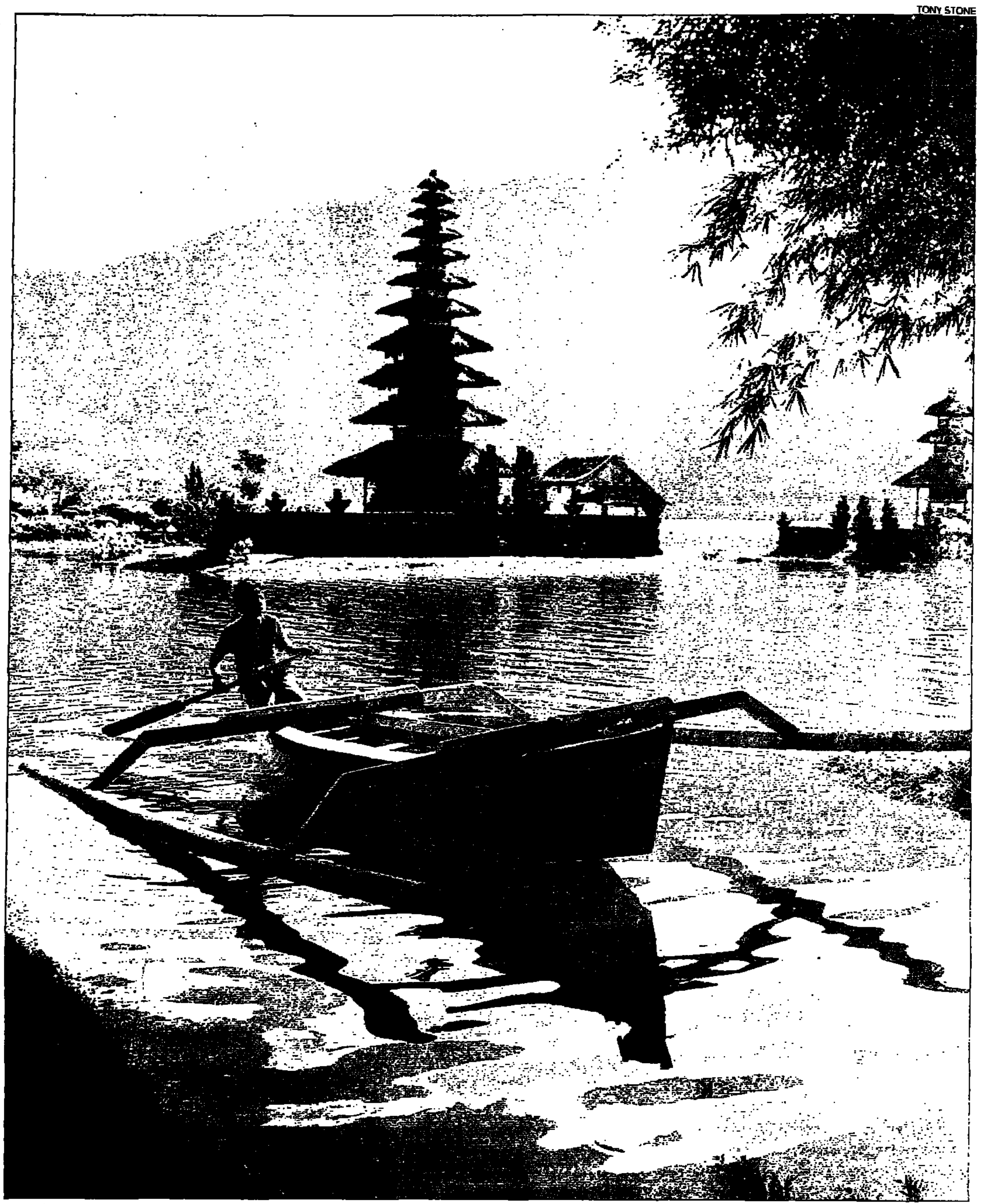
From the north coast it is possible to return south via Lake Bratan, with its waterskiing and parasailing facilities. Overlooking the serene waters is an international standard golf course. Or head west along the shores of Lake Buyan through coffee plantations, orange groves and hot water springs. West Bali is a mountainous land of dense jungle accessible by a coastal road. Just off the northwest tip lies Palau Menjangan, or Deer Island, with spectacular coral and excellent snorkelling and scuba diving.

Accommodation in Bali ranges from smart southern resort luxury to simple losmen, family-run bungalows, often built in traditional Balinese style enclosed in a walled garden. In rural spots such as Tirtagangga, a water garden of ornamental pools high in the shimmering rice terraces of the east, losmen could be the only option. Be warned that most families have a cockerel whose daybreak serenade may be considered damaging to health. Compensate with a visit to the market. Follow the multitudes swept into market towns from surrounding hamlets on a tide of tropical fruit, cages of turtle doves and rabbits. The Balinese do business in a psychedelic scene of pungent herbs and spices, hardware and footware, under bright canopies.

If you need a sandy shore, fly or take a boat to Senggigi Beach on the island of Lombok, or continue to Gili Air, one of three coral-fringed islands off its coast. As I rocked gently in a hammock outside my palm-thatched hut, a battered copy of *Treasure Island* discarded by my side, (who needs fiction?), I sipped a sundowner and pondered: which desert island discs should I have packed?

SARAH MARSH

TONY STONE



The Ulu Danu Temple on Lake Bratan. Its serene waters offer waterskiing and are overlooked by a golf course of international standard

A traditional Balinese dancer

INDONESIA FACT FILE

- ■ Wexas International (0171-581 8761) offers tailor-made holidays in Bali and Lombok from £806 (in Jan-Feb, 1997), including return flights and four-star hotel accommodation.
- ■ Other tour operators serving Bali and Lombok include: Bales (01306 885991), *Garuda Indonesia Holidays* (01753 687676), Earthwatch Europe (01865 311600), Kuoni Worldwide (01306 740500) and Thomas Cook Holidays (01733 332255).
- ■ Airlines: Garuda Indonesia (0171-486 3011), Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007), Qantas (0345 747767) and Royal Brunei (0171-584 6660).
- ■ Discount flight agents include: Destination Group, from £545 (0171-253 9000): STA Travel, for students and under-26s, from £518 return (0171-361 6262): Trailfinders (0171-938 3366).
- ■ A free, 60-day tourist visa is available to British citizens arriving through designated ports of entry (Ngurah Rai airport and the ports of Padang Bai and Benoa).
- ■ Lombok can be reached from Bali on a domestic flight (about 30 minutes by Sempati Air) and can be booked in Bali on 288823, or by ferry. Boats to the Gili islands leave from the port Bangsal, cost from Rp1,200 and take 20-45 minutes.
- ■ Currency is Rupiah (Rp) and the exchange rate is about Rp3,600 to £1.
- ■ Jeep hire is about £13 a day; cheaper weekly. International licence needed.
- ■ Inoculations against hepatitis A, polio, tetanus and typhoid are recommended. Consult your GP or call Masta's helpline on 0891 224100.
- ■ For more information and details of cultural events contact the Indonesian Tourist Office, 3 and 4 Hanover Street, London W1 (0171-493 0334).
- ■ Recommended reading: *The Rough Guide: Bali and Lombok* £8.99.

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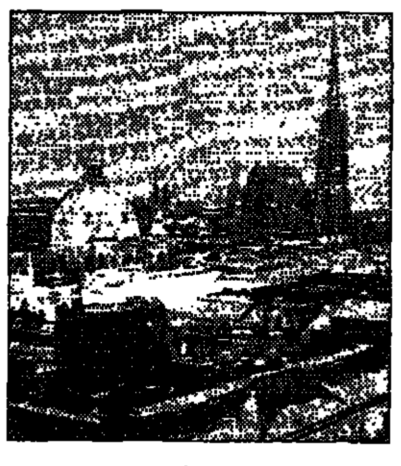

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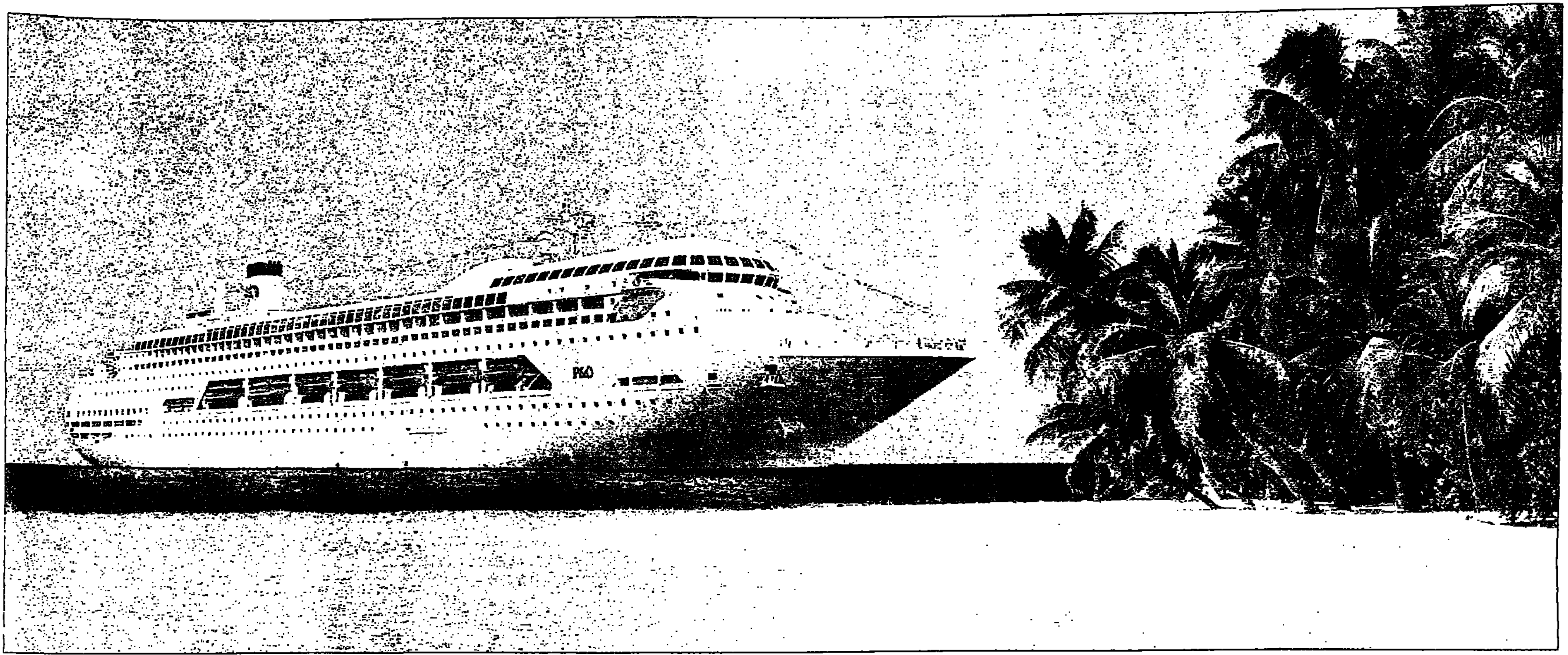


The P&O liner *Crown Princess* has every luxury including air conditioning, an essential requirement by day and night. Cruise arrangements afford ample privacy to those who want it, ample diversions and trips for those who don't

Happy as a hummingbird

My wife and I went on a cruise in the Caribbean for two main reasons — to enjoy the sun (both of us) and to see some Caribbean birds in an easy-going way (me). Both ambitions, as will become clear, were amply fulfilled.

We flew from Gatwick to Miami by Virgin and stayed overnight in the Sofitel Hotel (all this included in the cruise fare). We woke to the splash of water in the hotel's open-air pool, and the sun blazing in the sky. There were even some classic American birds — grackles and mockingbirds — in the hotel garden. By coach on to Port Everglades, and by lunchtime we were aboard the *Crown Princess*, our luggage already waiting for us in our cabin.

We grew very fond of that cabin. It had sensitive air conditioning and we kept it in a state of perfect coolness, day and night, throughout our ten days on board. It also had a balcony with a table and chairs, where one could sit looking out over hundreds of miles of sea without a soul in sight. This was important when there were 1,600 fellow-cruisers on board. Our steward, Nelson, was a charming Portuguese whose speciality was laying out our pyjamas in ever more intricate patterns (and our shoes in pyramids) while we were having dinner.

The ship sailed that evening and we bade farewell from our balcony to the brown pelicans that were circling over the harbour. In the morning, in the same brilliant sunshine that was to accompany our voyage all through, we were at anchor off Nassau in the Bahamas.

This was the first of seven ports of call on our cruise — seven islands, all very different, which we drove around either in sleek vans, battered taxis or open-sided buses. In Nassau we had a jovial and confident guide who talked like a Methodist minister and told us that all the British had brought to the Bahamas were "cannonballs, meatballs and screwballs". He showed us everything in the town, from the 18th-century fort to the residence where the Windsors lived, ending up at some lush gardens where flamingos performed for us.

The flock of long-legged pink birds swept into the ring like a ballet troupe, then seemed to prance to and fro simply at the word of their trainer. In fact, I think he was cleverly moving himself about so they were always trying to run away. But it was a dashing performance, and afterwards everyone photographed themselves with the flamingos. Other passengers went swimming or snorkelling among the coral reefs.

A day's sailing southwards brought us to St Thomas in the American Virgin Islands. Waking up in the harbour of Charlotte Amalie brought a new pleasure — the sight of two magnificent frigate birds gliding overhead. These are amazing creatures, the size of a swan but glossy brown with a very long, forked tail. St Thomas is a more rugged island, and was also the first of the shopping islands on our route. Stores on the quayside glittered with diamonds, emeralds, watches and cameras.

Guadeloupe offered rural pleasures, including a clanking water mill where we watched sugar cane being fed in by hand as it had been for almost 200 years. At the end of our tour of the island, drinking rum punch in the garden of a seaside hotel, I saw my first bananaquits — little gold-and-black birds that feed on nectar from flowers.

Barbados was perhaps the most enjoyable island, with a highly cultivated landscape and islanders who were prosperous and cheerful. The high point of our visit here was a beautiful 18th-century plantation house with hummingbirds in the garden and a French châtelaine who gave us her recipe for rum punch as she served it: "One sour, two sweet, three strong, four weak" — i.e. lemon, sugar, rum and water in that order and those proportions.

Now we had a day's sailing north again, with nothing to distract us from the sun. (On every other day, of course, there was also plenty of time for sunbathing since the trips ashore only took two or three hours.) Everything ran beautifully smoothly aboard, in the hands of our genial Italian captain and our merry English purser.

On the lido deck, you could swim in the pool or lie on sunbeds while waiters passed with Cokes and rum daiquiris. Even here, there was privacy — you could lie or read quietly among crowds of jolly American bathers and no one would disturb you. One night I even sat on deck in the dusk drinking a bourbon quite alone, with a silver moon lying on its back above me, while the first dinner-sitting ate and the second bathed and changed.

In fact, the only people you really had to talk to at all were your regular dinner companions. Luckily, we had good company — two Scots couples and a Yorkshire pair, all of them ironists and wits. You can eat breakfast and lunch formally in the dining room as well, if you want to, but the ship is littered with pasta bars, self-service restaurants and cafés which you can go to instead, and where everything you consume apart from alcohol is included in the fare.

There are also optional entertainments, from excellent fitness classes ("Thighs, bums and tums" very popular) to comedy shows, midnight dances and feasts, and "How to make a carnation out of a paper napkin".

Much of the time passed in a haze of peace and luxury. We were roused from our happy slumbers again at Dominica, where we clambered up rugged paths to see a great waterfall, and at St Maarten, another shopping island where you step into the shacks along the high street to find yourself in exquisite Bond Street stores.

Our last port of call was at Princess Cays, where P&O owns its own beach and you can go ashore by motor-boat for a final swim and barbecue. For my own part I had an excellent final session of bird-watching there, with royal terns lining a rocky stretch of beach.

So back to Miami, with a drive around the city and lunch in a hotel, and our bags taken care of, until we set off over the Atlantic again — hardly yet able to absorb all the colours of life that we had lived through.

DERWENT MAY

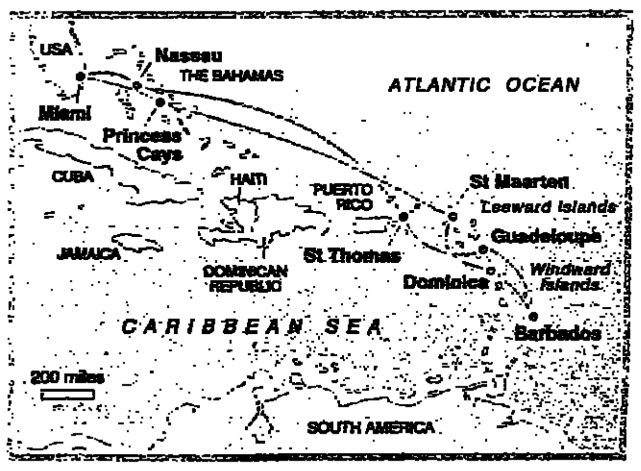
● *The author was a guest of P&O Princess Cruises.*

CRUISE FACTS

- **The Princess Cruise fleet sails in the Caribbean from October to April. Its most recent addition is *Sun Princess*, the largest cruise ship afloat. There are many different routes, and prices vary greatly. The cheapest cruise, the nine-night Tropical Delight, ranges from £995 per person in a twin inside cabin to £2,645 per person for a deluxe suite outside. At the other extreme is the 13-night Caribbean Spectacular, ranging from £1,845 per person for a twin outside cabin to £5,160 per person for an outside penthouse suite. Fares include flights, accommodation, all meals and entertainment. Not included are tips, drinks, tours, insurance, hotel meals on land, some airport taxes.**
- **On board, no money changes hands (except to buy postage stamps). You sign bills and pay at the end of the trip, with the tips.**
- **For brochures write to Princess Cruises, Dept BDM, Phoenix Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RY. Head office: 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP (0171-800-2468).**

TONY STONE

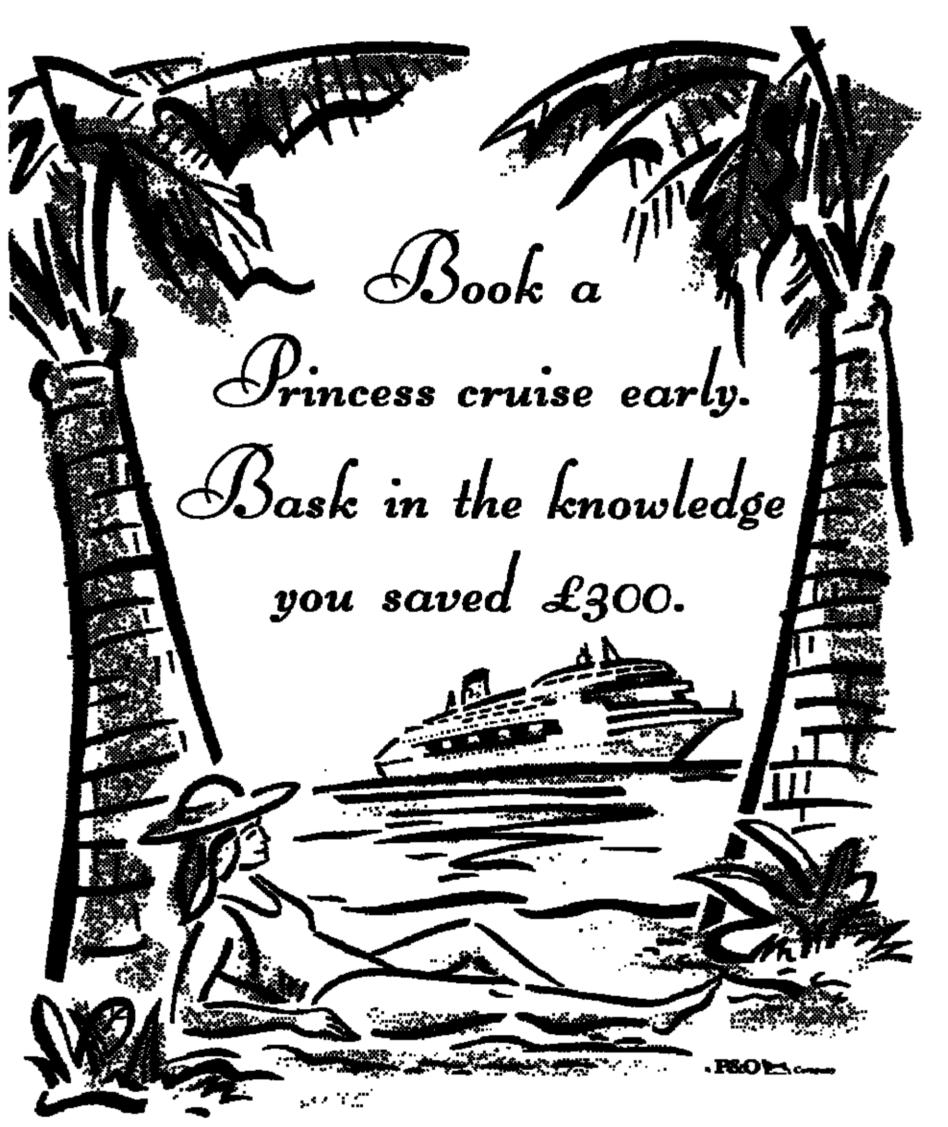
Waterfall in Moine Trois Pitons National Park, Dominica



DEPARTURES

- **THE Passenger Shipping Association is about to launch October's "Cruise Month 96". The promotion will include competitions, special discounts and a free "Choose to Cruise" booklet aimed at first-timers, available from PSA, Walmar House, 288-300 Regent St, London W1N 5HE.**
- **GARDEN CRUISE: In Northern waters, a special eight-day cruise on board the Black Prince, organised for the National Trust by Page and Moy (0116 250 7676) sails on May 12 from Dover, finishing in Greenock and visiting St Malo, the Isles of Scilly, Cork, Dublin, Stornoway and Tobermory. The cruise costs £545-£945.**
- **P&O Cruises (0171-800 2222) is offering passenger discounts of up to 20 per cent on 1997 cruises if booked before the end of November. Among its themed cruises is a "Scrabble cruise" on the Oriana from Southampton to the Canary Islands, Lisbon and Vigo, starting at £1,045 for 11 nights in April.**
- **SWAN AROUND: Swan Hellenic's (0171-800 2200) brochure on its converted Soviet spy ship, *Minerva*, offers a 15-day "Passionate North" cruise in July combining the Norwegian Fjords with Stockholm, Copenhagen and the Shetlands for £2,700.**
- **WORLD CRUISES: The 102-day global circumnavigation on Cunard's (01703 716500) 740-passenger *Royal Viking Sun*, rated the most luxurious large ship afloat, starts on January 26, 1997 from San Francisco and costs from £22,275. The veteran British *Canberra* sails eastbound from January 6 on her last 90-day world cruise before she retires. The full cruise costs from £5,595, shorter segments from £1,495. Telephone 0171-800 2222.**

J.C.



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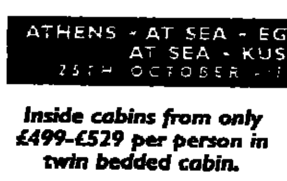

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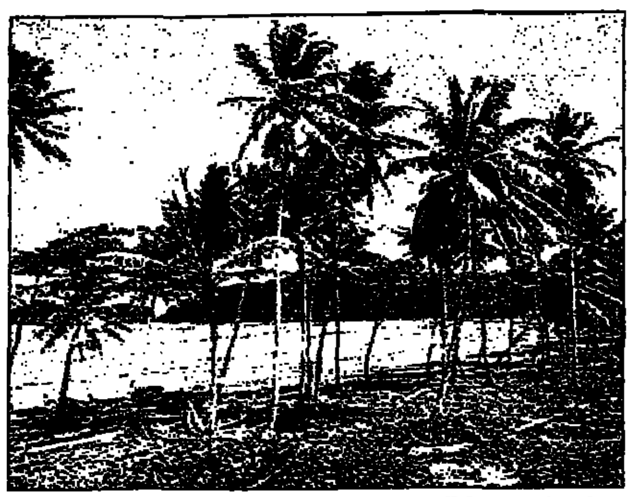
Small is beautiful

HOLIDAYS in plantation houses in the Caribbean, thatched cottages in Fiji, lodges in the Seychelles and working farms in New Zealand are featured in Silk Cut Travel's (01730 230370) *Small Hotels of Character*, an antidote to the current trend for holidays in huge all-inclusive complexes.

Lesser known Caribbean islands, such as the Grenadines quartet of Bequia, Mayreau, Young Island and Palm Island are included, with a week's B&B at Bequia's pink clapboard Plantation House starting at £1,908. Accommodation in the British Virgin Islands has been increased at the expense of the fashionable French Caribbean island of St Barts. A seven-night break at the 20-room Lord Nelson Hotel in Antigua with Silk Cut starts at £696.


Silk Cut travel visits lesser-known Caribbean islands

French flora

A VISIT to the French version of Chelsea Flower Show, La Journée des Plantes at Versailles from 17-20 October is offered by VFB Holidays (01242 240310) as one of its themed autumn minibreaks. Travelling by Eurostar, the cost is £329.

Skiing guide

DETAILS of 29 fully bonded skiing operators are listed in the Association of British Tour Operators (AITO) Ski Directory, available free by phoning 0181-607 9080. AITO operators carry 15 per cent of the estimated 750,000 British skiers, of which 25 per cent head for France, 24 per cent for Austria, 20 per cent Italy, Bulgaria and North America 9 per cent each, and 3 per cent for Switzerland.

The directory offers a choice of 178 resorts in 16 countries, with Harrachov in the Czech Republic and Big White in Canada among the new recruits. Prices range from £152 in France to £4,155 in Chile, both for a week's self catering.

Young ones

THINGS to buy with a fiver (*three nights in* a *Thai beach* hut or several massages, for example, a week's bike hire in Vietnam or five bottles of *Bintang Beer in Indonesia*), advice on travelling solo, how to plan your round-the-world trip to include the Himalayas, Barrier Reef and Mardi Gras and choosing the right travel companions, are among a host of hints for young travellers in *The Guide*, available free from youth and independent travel specialist STA Travel by phoning 0171 361 6166. The nuts and bolts of cheap fares and budget accommodation, insurance and health advice are also listed.

Gîte agents

BRITTANY Ferries (0990 360360) has been appointed exclusive UK agents for Gîtes de France holiday properties.

Forest trek

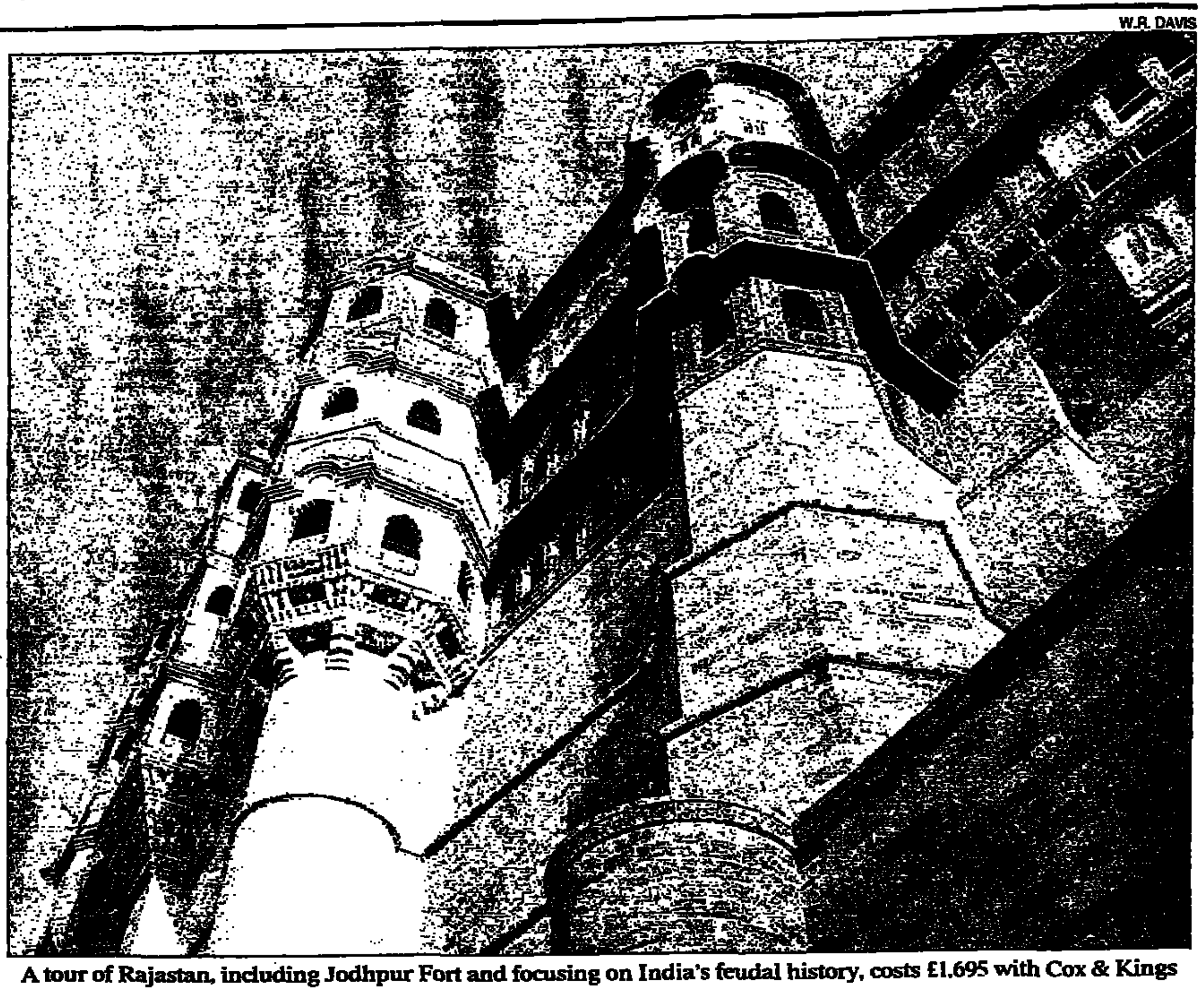
THE TAMBOPATA Reserve and the town of Puerto Maldonado in the tropical rainforests of south-west Peru, known as the biological capital of the world, is believed to support more species of bird (592) and butterfly (1,230) than any other locations of its size. There are 180 species of tree in *one hectare alone, and the* area is home to endangered river otters, jaguar, harpy eagle and black caiman.

A two-week trip there next Easter is being organised by the environmental charity the Field Studies Council Overseas (01743 850522), with lectures, treks and photography advice. The price of £1,990 (approx) includes all flights, accommodation in simple but comfortable log cabins, meals *and transport up-river by* motorised dugout.

Closer to home, the Outer Hebrides islands of Uist, *Barra and Bernera are the* bases for a 10-day flora and fauna tour, costing £899.

No smoking

SKI ESPRIT (01252 616789) has banned smoking on all flights and in chalets in France and Switzerland.


W.R. DAVIS

A tour of Rajastan, including Jodhpur Fort and focusing on India's feudal history, costs £1,695 with Cox & Kings

All the Raj

A 16-DAY journey into the heart of rural Rajasthan is offered by Cox & Kings (0171 *873 5000) staying in smaller* forts and places, many the former ancestral homes of princely families. The tour, which departs on 1st March 1997 and costs £1,695 for flights and full board, is escorted by Thakur Jitendra Singh of Junia, an expert on Rajastan's feudal history. The tour includes visits to Jodhpur, *Dedogarh, the medieval* town of Gungarpur and the fort at Dhariyawad, ending with two nights at the Lake *Palace Hotel in Udaipur*.

New year bash

NO DOUBT the first of many to come — Long Bay Beach Resort on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands has announced its Millennium Package "Ring in the Year 2000". Eleven days of *non-stop celebrations are promised* with the highlight on New Year's Eve when there will be a huge *festival dinner*, dancing *under the stars* and a magnum of champagne per couple. The party continues the next day with a sail to the nearby Jost Van Dyke, an island famous for its New Year's bashes. The package costs £1,799 excluding flights. Details from Island Destinations on 0800 898379.

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Let's hear hooray for the Marais

When Paris visitors are *irrevocably* divided between culture and commerce, the Marais is the sensible solution. Those without the stamina and serious-mindedness required for shopping can be sent to the Musée Carnavalet, the Musée Picasso or Victor Hugo's house. The warring sides can meet in cafés in between: the museum-goers enriched, the shoppers impoverished.

The Marais — its name means marsh — is swamped with tourists at weekends, so weekdays are preferable. Nowadays the place is gentrified like New York's SoHo — Establishment trendy while the Bastille and Oberkampf are edgily trendy. However this does ensure smart bars and restaurants, and shops to succour any fashion victim.

A *basic route through the* Marais should encompass the old Jewish Rue des Rosiers, the modish Rue des Francs-Bourgeois and the Place des Vosges, while including tangential sniffs round the side streets nearby. The Marais includes some of the finest *hôtels particuliers* — walled mansions with the grandest possible architecture. The French put a preservation order on the Marais in 1962, so the grand coexists with rambling old apartment buildings in the narrow streets. Every entrance that looks faintly open should be explored — sometimes the best glimpses of buildings are from the private courtyards within.

The hotel housing the Musée Carnavalet was built in 1544 and can be viewed through barred gates on the Rue des Francs-Bourgeois, showing the courtyard, arches and box hedges. The building houses the museum of Paris history and is particularly good on the Revolution and Napoleon.

A few streets north is the Musée Picasso in the Hôtel Salé, another wonderful old mansion with wrought ironwork by Giacometti. Paris acquired much of Picasso's personal collection in lieu of death taxes and the museum charts each phase of his development, yet is small enough to be tackled in an hour. The sculpture, ceramics and temporary exhibitions of photographs or Picasso's doodles are an added delight.

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO PARIS

The jewel of the Marais is the Place des Vosges, a perfect 1612 square of cream stone and red brick houses on an arcade, all overlooking the immaculately pollarded park. A stop is required here on the park benches or at the corner café, Ma Bourgogne, which has heaters above the tables in winter so that terrace life can continue. In the south-western corner of the square is the Musée Victor Hugo, worth visiting even for those who loathe the author of *Les Misérables*. The views from Hugo's old apartment over the Place des Vosges are stunning. The typical family apartment is spacious, with panelled rooms drenched in sunlight. The house is miserably signposted and only the second and third floors are open to the public.

One odd charm of the apartment — although stuffies complain — is that it overlooks the local primary school playground. During the mid-afternoon break, between 3pm and 3.30pm, the shouts of (well-behaved) children fracture the air of the museum. Hugo's photos, sketches and watercolours are on display, along with posters for his novels: "The complete works: 25 centimes per volume".

Going back along the Rue des Rosiers, a bastion of Jewish tradition among the encroaching trendiness, it is important to sample the falafel and delicious breads. Sacha Finkelsztajn's delicatessen is renowned for its cheesecake and pastries. The moustached proprietor forced me to taste 12 dips before I selected three — a caviar of red peppers, another of aubergines and an exquisite taramasalata with dill — to go with my poppyseed bagels.

KATE MUIR

- *Sacha Finkelsztajn, 27 Rue des Rosiers, 4th (42 72 78 91), closed Wed and Sat. Musée Victor Hugo, 6 Place des Vosges, 4th (42 72 10 16) closed Mon. Last chance to see: Alexander Calder's sculptures at Musée d'Art Moderne, 11 Av du Président, 16th (53 67 40 00) until Oct 6.*

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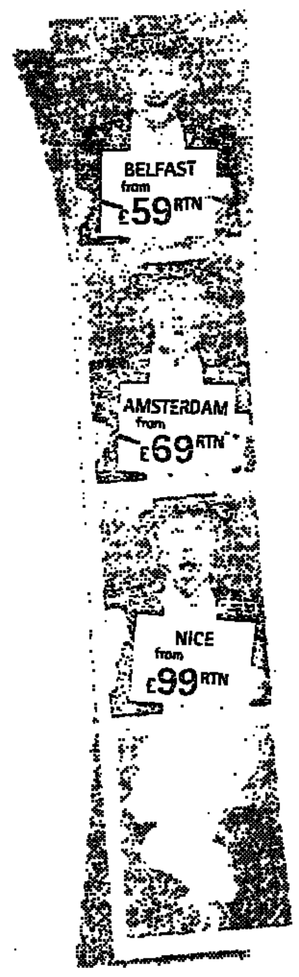

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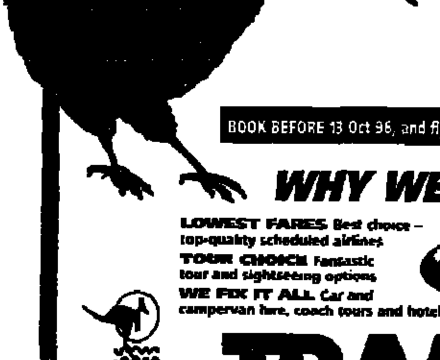

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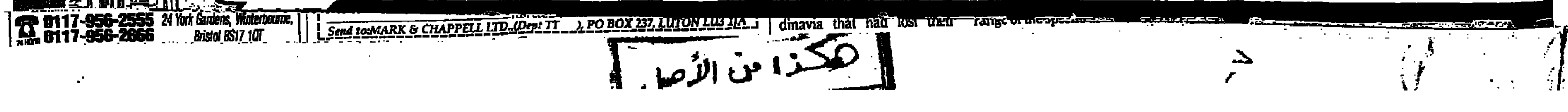

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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

IN THE PAST year, the Internet has become a major highway, both for the dissemination of chess knowledge and for playing the game. Earlier this year, when Garry Kasparov played against IBM's Deep Blue computer, the moves of game six, the decisive victory which clinched the match in Kasparov's favour, were accessed an extraordinary five million times by Internet devotees.

Now Anatoly Karpov, Kasparov's great rival, has sought to go one better, by challenging the world to a game via the Internet. The match was sponsored by Finnish Telecom, and Karpov played from Helsinki against his massed team of global challengers. A computer program selected the most popular move proposed by Karpov's opponents.

White: Internet Players
Black: Anatoly Karpov
August 1996
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5

Even in an exhibition match, Karpov stays true to his quiet Caro-Kann Defence, a defensive weapon which has stood him in good stead in official matches.

3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nd7
5 Nf3 Ngf6 6 Bd3

This loses time. More aggressive is 6 Nxf6+ Nxf6 7 Ne5.

6 ... Nxe4 7 Bxe4 Nf6
8 Bd3 Bg4

After this move Black has easily solved all the problems connected with the opening.

9 c3 e6 10 0-0 Be7
11 h3 Bh5 12 Bf4 0-0
13 Re1 Qb6 14 Rb1

Black already has a slight initiative based on his pin against White's knight and his pressure against White's pawn on b2. The white players probably rejected 14 Qe2 on account of 14 ... Bxf3 15 Qxf3 Qxb2 but there would at least have been some scope for complication after 16 Rab1 since 16 ... Qxc3 fails to the neat coup 17 Bxh7+.

14 ... c5 15 dxc5 Bxc5
16 Be3 Rfd8 17 Bxc5 Qxc5
18 Qe2 Qd5

White's supine play has invited this. Despite the series of exchanges, Black has maintained his initiative and now forces a serious weakness in White's kingside pawns.

19 Bc4 Bxf3 20 gxf3

Unpleasant, but all other moves lose material.

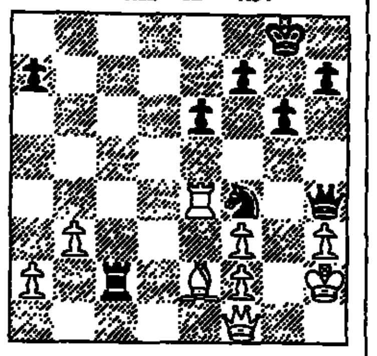
20 ... Qg5+ 21 Kh2 Qh4
22 Rg1 g6 23 Rbd1 Qf4+
24 Kh1 Qh4 25 Kh2 Rxd1

After a momentary hesitation Karpov now finds the right plan, targeting White's weak square f4.

26 Rxd1 Nh5 27 Rd4 Nf4
28 Qf1 Rc8 29 b3

If 29 Bb3 Black wins by playing 29 ... Rc5 and then transferring it either to g5 or h5 with a decisive attack.

29 ... b5 30 Bxb5 Rxc3
31 Be2 Rc2 32 Re4



32 ... Rcl White resigns.
Black's breakthrough in the c-file, engineered by 29 ... b5 has permitted this elegant final stab. After 33 Qxcl White's queen is deflected from the king's defence so Black can mate in two with either 33 ... Qxf2+ or 33 ... Qxh3+.

Internet Magazine
Chess is booming on the Internet, and it is now possible to arrange a game around the world at more or less any time of the day or night. Irish chess international Tim Harding is now producing a magazine which gives detailed information about such possibilities. It is called Chess Mail and a free copy can be obtained by writing to: Chess Mail Ltd, 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland, or sending e-mail to tharding@homenet.ie.

The Times daily chess column can be accessed on The Times website, the details of which are given on the front page of the paper.

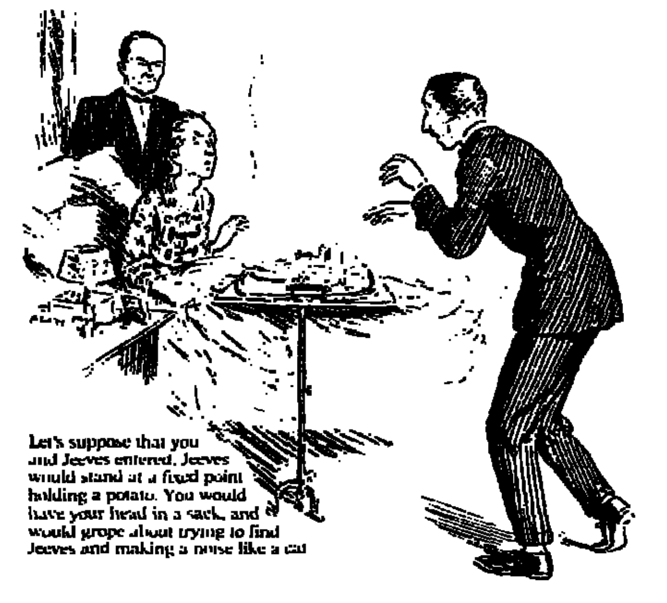
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (19), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final
The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 2.



Let's suppose that you and Jeeves entered. Jeeves would stand at a fixed point holding a potato. You would have your head in a sack, and would grope about trying to find Jeeves and making a noise like a cat

Even in old age Noel and Liam failed to resolve their differences

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by C. McCormack of Wilmslow, Cheshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SIM-SIM
a. A breed of monkey
b. Sesame
c. A card game

TROBRIAND
a. A trochaic meter
b. Of an island
c. A cut of beef

SEMEME
a. Meaning
b. A pungent herb
c. Reflexive personal pronoun

VOTIC
a. To do with orisons
b. An involuntary twitch
c. A language

Answers on page 21

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

TO BE successful at bridge you must never give up. Today's defence is a good example. East was the American expert Chuck Burger (no BSE jokes please), playing in the quarter-finals of the Grand National Teams. He was defending Four Spades after this sequence (North dealer):

W	N	E	S
—	1C	Pass	2S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

South's Two Spades showed a six-card suit, but was weak and non-forcing (a common American method). West led the two of diamonds and this is what Burger could see:

♠K
♥KQ9
♦AJ84
♣AKJ83

N
W E
S

♠QJ8
♥AJ4
♦Q753
♣642

Declarer played low from dummy on the diamond; Burger put up the queen, which held the trick. Plan the defence before reading on.

Prospects look bleak. You can see that if you defend passively, declarer will make ten tricks. Even if all he has is Axxxxx of spades he will be bound to make five tricks in spades. He has three more with the ace of diamonds and ace and king of clubs. He can set up a heart: and when he ruffs a diamond there will be an extra trick in that suit (your partner being marked with an initial holding of Kxx from the play to the first trick). The only source of extra tricks for the defence is hearts. So you return a heart at trick two; your partner plays the ten and dummy's queen wins the trick. Declarer continues with dummy's king of spades. Are you ready? This was the full deal:

Dealer North Love all

North:
♠K
♥KQ9
♦AJ84
♣AKJ83

West:
♠1072
♥10752
♦K102
♣Q109

East:
♠QJ8
♥AJ4
♦Q753
♣642

South:
♠A98543
♥863
♦96
♣75

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: two of diamonds

After finding the switch to a low heart at trick two, Burger continued by unblocking the queen of spades under the king. Declarer crossed to hand by playing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond. When he laid down the ace of spades Burger dropped the jack.

Declarer needed trumps to be 3-3 to have any chance. Though he could have succeeded by playing for 3-3 clubs with the queen well placed, it seemed a better chance to hope Burger had started with QJ10 of spades. So he led a third trump. When West turned up with the ten he continued hearts, and East took two tricks in the suit for one down.

Notice that Burger had to defend exactly as he did to give the defence a chance.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

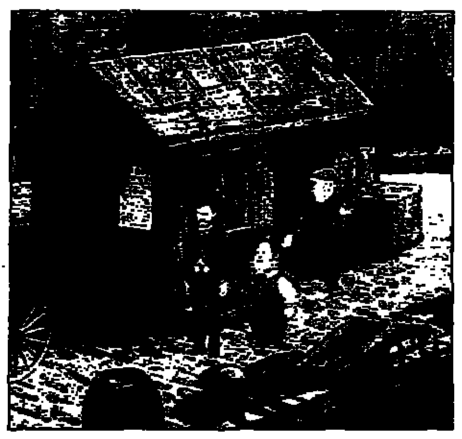
by Tim Wapshott

THE GENE MACHINE is a game inspired by H.G.Wells and set in that golden age of the British Empire when refined gentlemen actually preferred their clubs to blondes. This is Victorian London, so poor boys sweep chimneys and working-class men refer to their elders as "guv'nor".

Piers Featherstonehaugh is an explorer. In the main he is charming but he does foster an unpleasant disregard for his long-suffering manservant, Mossop. When a talking cat calls at their palatial London abode, Piers and Mossop quickly find themselves on an epic mission to save the Empire single-handed. They must hire a steamship and set off in search of the lost city of Atlantis —after solving the first of many puzzles to find backers in London for their impromptu expedition.

Travelling around the capital in horse-drawn carriage, Piers and servant pay calls on Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace, the idle rich at the Highborn Club on Piccadilly, and various scoundrels scurrying around the East End slums in Whitechapel, recently voted the place "least likely to host the Great Exhibition of 1851". There are more than 100 hand-painted backdrops in **The Gene Machine**, a DOS game on CD-Rom published by Vik Tokai, which are in turn overlaid with animated characters or triggered animation sequences which move the plot along. Both styles of animation are of limited sophistication and have all the lip-sync production values of a dubbed German TV cop series. However, the voice characterisations by Sean Pertwee, Jeff Rawle and others are unusually good, lending the experience the feel of a good Radio 4 drama.

Some parts tend to drag but helpings of humour make up for these: one of the books in Piers' study is *Train Your Manservant The Woodhouse Way*, while a Vaudeville Theatre bill pasted near St Paul's Cathedral advertises a run by George Burns, the comedian who was 100 when he died earlier this year. The genteel title is enchanting, the adventure is riveting and most of the inventions, such as steam-fish and steam-rockets, are riveted. There is also an H.G.Wellian feel to the dials and gauges of the status panel used in



The Gene Machine has the atmosphere of a rather good Radio 4 drama

Quarterdeck's **WINProbe 95**, a programme to help you iron out Windows 95 hiccups and fine-tune your computer's abilities.

The troubleshooter toolbox loads onto Windows 95 and allows you to run your multimedia machine at peak performance by using software tools to fix problems, clean up and edit registry, eliminate bottlenecks and prevent crashes and fatal errors before they occur. Over 200 comprehensive diagnostic tests can be run automatically and, for novices, a multimedia KnowledgeBase explains all in detail.

Also by Quarterdeck, but tailored specifically for the games player, is **Game-Runner 3.0** for Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and DOS. This lets you free up memory and run faster when accommodating demanding titles. Moreover, you can play games by your own rules, with cheats for over 100 games. If it is purely cheats you are after, then (despite the nauseating title) Guildsoft's **Game Cheats 3** is worth a look. This serves up thousands of cheats and extra levels for current favourites, from **Aliens: Comic Book Adventure** to **Zork Nemesis**. The title includes editors to build your own chaotic levels for games such as **Command & Conquer** and **Descent II**, as well as a selection of 350 playable Shareware demos.

Finally, this is the last call for **Cyberspace Twenty-Six**, which closes at midnight on Wednesday (Oct 2). Initially ten readers will win copies of **Scala's MultiMedia MM100** authoring kit, worth £149.99 and the chance also to scoop Microsoft software worth £1,000. To enter you are invited to invent a multimedia experience which you would like to make were you to win a copy of Scala. Our ten winners will then be asked, in one month, to turn their wild inventions into reality with the Scala kit. The product deemed most successful will win its author the library of 25 Microsoft titles.

The competition is open to readers aged 11 and over and entries should be between 100 and 200 words. Ideas can be outlandish so long as they also seem highly feasible, marks will be added for originality and humour. Send your entries, which *must* include your name, age, address and home telephone number to: Cyberspace Twenty-Six, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The judges' verdict is final and they will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Please accept my resignation. I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member." Groucho Marx, from his autobiography, *Groucho and Me* (1959).

WINNING MOVE

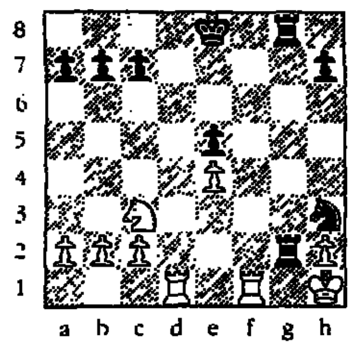
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Cochrane - Staunton, London 1842. In this simplified position White probably felt secure from snap checkmates but Howard Staunton, the only British player who could lay claim to being world champion, swiftly proved otherwise. Black to play.

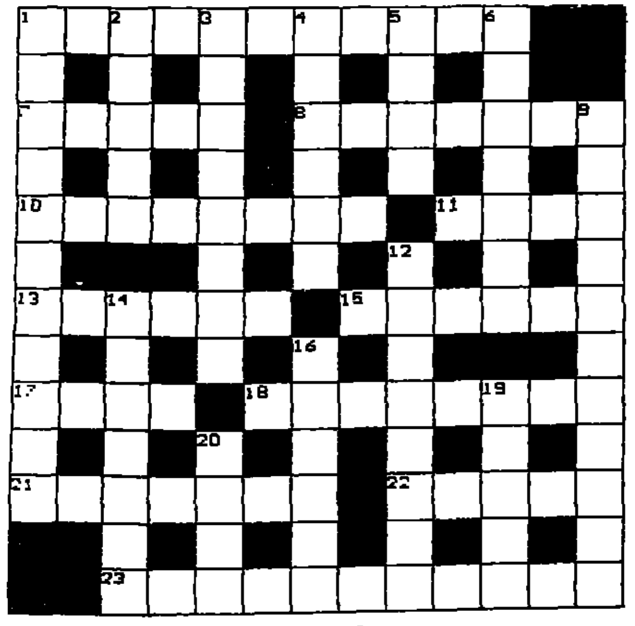
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Bd2

Last week's winners: C R Pendleton, Solihull, West Midlands; D Grant, Winchester, Hampshire; M Day, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 899

ACROSS
1 Perfectly cooked (4,2,1,4)
7 A country; lacquer (5)
8 Book checker (7)
10 Opening in roof (8)
11 Molten rock from volcano (4)
13 Cause offence (to) (6)
15 Jacob —, Scrooge's partner (6)
17 Long heroic poem (4)
18 US state; its beetle a potato pest (8)
21 Result (7)
22 Recede, get milder (5)
23 Sherlock Holmes's hat (11)

DOWN
1 Show appreciation by eating (meal) (2,7,2)
2 Cold; nimble (5)
3 Having real existence (8)
4 — Christie, *Poirot* creator (6)
5 Reverse (effects of) (4)
6 Women's team game (7)
9 Off the peg (5-2-4)
12 Extensive view (8)
14 Pompous, unfluent (7)
16 Is envious of (6)
19 Taken —: disconcerted (5)
20 Catholic leader (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 898

ACROSS: 1 Rash 3 Modicum 8 Mention 9 Wages 10 Solid 11 Feydeau 13 Tyrannous 17 Omnibus 19 Legal 20 Bower 22 Outline 23 Tankard 24 Ugly

DOWN: 1 Remiss 2 Singleton 3 Man of one's word 4 Dowry 5 Cog 6 Masque 7 Minder 12 Easy-going 14 Oblate 15 You bet 16 Sleepy 18 Beria 21 Wan

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3377: Morning Service by Nibor

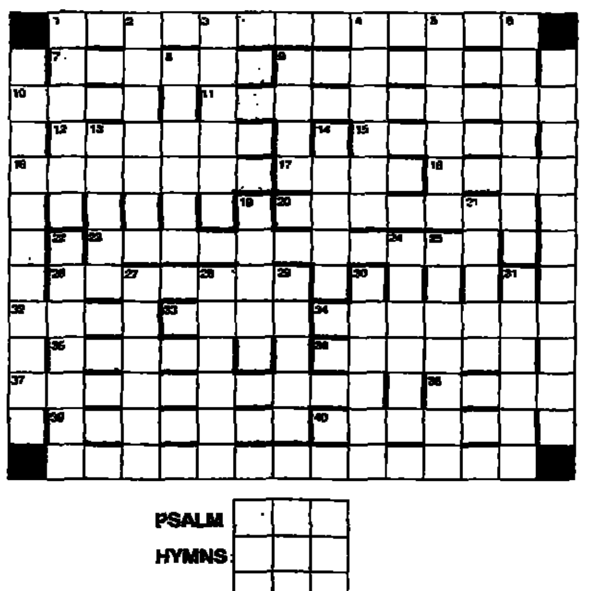
TWENTY EIGHT clues contain a redundant word. Initial letters of these, in clue order, comprise the unchecked letters of the text of the sermon (Holy Bible, Authorised Version) which runs clockwise round the perimeter of the main diagram. The starting point for both text and unchecked letter sequence have to be determined. In the completed diagram solvers should find, and indicate by shading or highlighting, a further instruction which, when followed selectively, will enable them to insert the (fictional) psalm/hymn numbers as across lights in the small diagram. In this connection the asterisked clue numbers provide additional confirmation.

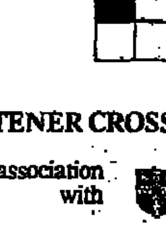
ORDER OF SERVICE

1 *Bidding prayer*	6 Hymn
2 Psalm	7 *Sermon*
3 *Reading from the Gospel*	8 Hymn
4 Hymn	9 *Intercessions*
5 *Canticle — Te Deum Laudamus*	10 Hymn

ACROSS
7 Discomfort for the feet following one's eating arboreous fruits (6)
9 Ancient reaching includes first sign of info about corslets (7)
10* Found in support — right wooden Eurosceptic (4)
11* To settle in bed of rock without moving a muscle (10)
12* Symbol for expressing sounds vital to Scarlet Pimpernel's territory (6)
15 We'll hold up a hammock with fifty lines held in by twists of hair (5)
16* An endless medley in his birthplace for entertaining this giant (7)
17 In "The King and I", Hopkin doubled Ms Dee (4)
18 Get a longing for West Country terrorist I'll follow (4)
20 One starts to be sick once lethal virus endeavours to finish anyone off (7)
23 Girls who knit will have time getting endlessly wealthy amidst properties (11)
26 Listen with this to the sad end to the convoluted drama (7)
32 Deity's power has one feasible idea (4)
33 Gutless hen's never dismembered (4)
34 Travel with energy, Earth God having renounced Apollo (7)
35 Full-flavoured drink, Kirsch, taken without water? Jock's not mistaken (5)
36 Eking out the cotton wool except when the wife's away (6)
37 Substance found in bird refuse made an impression (10)
38 Is cooked lightly — starter of rolls, scrambled eggs and rashers (4)
39 A timber tree crossing Northern American city (7)
40 Japanese sauce made from fish stuffed with endless grapeskins (6)

DOWN
1 Inside ungulate look for Shakespeare's virtuous quail (6)
2 American writer with a shilling in his shoe endeavours to do what he did (7)
3 Go down in expectation of Northern skinhead starting violent assaults (6)
4 Be concerned during the second stages (6)
5 Behave normally, rejecting popular singer, half-cut for the time being (6)
6* Fails to keep faith with Celtic maybe, having English as second language (not Latin) (7)
8 Canes miserable specimen — that's the answer (6)
9 John King is to see to it (4)
13 Flower provides drug with low alcoholic content (5)
14 Lie about gains in dietary roughage (5)
19 What can it mean? Stop experimenting with internal transfer (5)
21 Badge succeeds: 'very trendy' — H Smith (5)
22 Indian missionary's sheer murder in the army (7)
24 With which to ward off infection caught by nobleman from Oporto (6)
25 Spiders in Canadian province taking ages to get around Labrador (7)
27 Shield falling from heaven puts one in clean spin (6)
28 Run-ins from giving bone to impulsive dog without hesitation (6)
29 Ordinal for the origination of tuneful hymn in ritual devotions (5)
30 Rogue, say, may be caught by this fly Hindu with a knife (6)
31 Rescue from frenzied anger: I trembled (6)





LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3377

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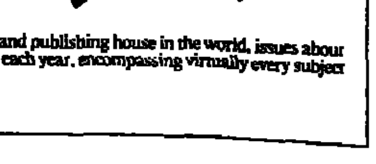
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3377, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, October 10.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with more than 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the leading writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



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I	M	A	R	E	T	C	A	S	E	L	A	W
S	T	R	A	W	D	E	I	S	H	E	A	L
E	Z	A	I	R	E	R	E	T	I	A	L	A
C	O	N	T	O	D	E	N	A	R	I	I	D
A	V	I	C	U	L	A	R	I	I	D	A	E
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P	H	A	L	A	N	S	T	E	R	I	S	T
M	I	E	M	O	M	E	N	E	M	A	T	U

Solution to 3374: Enclosure by Poat

The title refers to the word POUND, and the mottoes used are those found on the edge of pound coins. Lights at 17, 19, 21, 29, 31, 33 and 35 across are various coins and units of currency.

Down lights unjumbled are as follows:
1) MAZELTOV; 2) REATA; 3) TRIATIC; 4) WEIRDO; 5) CHOREE; 6) MANOMETRICAL; 7) AIRFIELD; 8) LIANA; 10) INTERMEDDLER; 11) SWATS; 12) HIKER; 20) AQUILINE; 22) SILKTAIL; 24) GERMAIN; 26) CULLY; 27) OSTIA; 28) UNSURE; 29) DEAFEN; 30) HINGS; 32) DAINE.

The winner is Barry Roe, of Wigston, Leicester.
The two runners up are R.Stone of Worcester and F.D.Barnes of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire.

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LADIES

ADVENTUROUS (enjoys the Ritz/or an ashram), attractive slim, fit widow N/S, WLTM active & considerate man (in his 50's)(who likes to ski, walk & perhaps sail), to enjoy theatre, cinema, travel etc. London/Home Counties. Please Reply with photo to Box 9110

AFFECTIONATE, romantic, slim, green eyed blonde, divorced, Jewish, London based awaits intelligent, tactile, understanding man under 63 with similar cultural/sporting interests. Photo please Reply Box 9160

ANYONE THERE? Are you tall, 50, GSOH, affluent, educated, like travel, theatre, dining out, walking by the sea, adventure? Lets have dinner. Send memo & photo Plse Reply Box 9105

ARE you the frog that turns into my Prince when I kiss you? Vivacious business woman of German origin WLTM a well educated man with a witty SOH who is down to earth, likes wining, dining, theatre, musicals, country walks, travelling, sharing and caring to forge an honest relationship with compromises from both sides. If you are 44-52, 5'9" + live in London, please reply with a photo to Box No 9129

ARTICULATE, attractive, intelligent, warm, financially OK lady, NW London based seeks similar man of integrity, humour, charm & substance (up to 70). Varied interests. Please Reply with photo/tel no. Box 9191

LADIES

ARTISTIC, mature, intelligent woman, London based, seeks similar N/S man. Box No 9217

ATTRACTIVE, tall, warm, humorous female with interests in arts & travel. Seeks similar creative, considerate man, 38-48. Leeds based. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 9150

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"BEAUTIFUL, intelligent and modest!" 5'5" 40yr Cotswolds lady seeks tall, attractive, thoughtful guy to share life's pleasures. Photo. Box No 8932

BEAUTIFUL, lady, 39, super cook seeks slim handsome man 35-48 London Central/West no rebounders. Photo please. Reply to Box No 9199

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CONFIDENT and happy 48 year old attractive youthful brunette who likes movies, books, wining and dining, seeks young good looking 45-50 year old, n/s, with similar interests and GSOH. Home Counties area pref. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 9174

CURRENTLY based in Wales, is a witty, trifle quirky, lateral-thinking, perceptive, sensitive, well-travelled, art-school graduate, Scottish, feisty (but loving) 54 yr. old lady who seeks a like-minded, n/s, romantic man, solvent, in his 50s and interested in sharing life's vicissitudes. Pls Reply to Box No 8979

CURVY but slim brunette. Mid 1940's vintage, warm and sincere, becoming more congruent by the day. Confident, happy, passionate, seeks a free spirit with integrity and compassion, solvent, able to carry his own baggage, under 60, n/s, photo essential, West Country. Please reply to Box No 9069

EASTERN Persian lady, (London) divorced, attractive, young 50, petite 5' 2", fair complexion. Affectionate/caring. Animal lover. Seeks genuine, sincere attractive tall prof. man (45-60) London/Surrey. Please send recent photo to Box No 8971

ELEGANT, pretty, American, 37, Professional, on assignment in Lisbon, comfortable in jeans and ballgowns, WLTM, cultured, successful, Christian businessman, WSOH, for friendship, travel, perhaps a family. Send recent photo of shoe collection. Please Reply to Box No 9119

GORGEOUS European mature woman WLTM equally gorgeous mature wealthy gentleman for on-going relationship with future. Please Reply to Box No 9196

GORGEOUS professional female seeks equivalent male 45-55 yrs with warmth, wit and integrity. Chester, N. Wales/ Shropshire border. Box No 9135

HIGH SPIRITED attractive sporty, prof lady seeks educated gentleman, 50-60 with GSOH for friendship and romance. Cheshire. Photo and letter appreciated Reply Box 9122

HUMOROUS, slim, attractive divorcee, 47, Anglo-American academic, 5ft 6, loves city and country life, music and conversation. Seeks prof. man, 45-55. London. Box No 8869

I'M 48, I'm young, I'm sensual and tactile, I'm artistic. I'm brilliant; If you are too, we should be together. Where are you? Plse Reply to Box No 9201

INDEPENDENT, educated, sensuous, elegant late 40's, 5ft 9" full-figured blonde of varied interests. WLTM intelligent, masculine, very successful caring man 6ft + (over 40) for warmth and comfort of lasting relationship. Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 9178

LADY R.C. slim, 5'9", brunette, 36 yrs, single and pretty, looking for a tall, professional, articulate, well educated man of similar background, and very single(!) South East based. Letter, photo, & tel. no please to Box No 9200

LIFE is more fun shared. London based cultured elegant lady, 60 something, WLTM 60 something, cultured, fit, 'young in spirit' gentleman for drinks/ lunch or dinner, weekends & travel. Must be genuine with GSOH, interested in good food, wine, swimming, travel & country pursuits. Please reply with photo/tel no. to Box No 9210

LINCOLNSHIRE-Derbyshire. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has hundreds of intelligent, attractive ladies. Call Vicky on 01522 682594

LONDON based slim brunette, 37, ex-workaholic, now enjoying the good things in life (theatre, travel, wining and dining) seeks professional man with SOH to share them with. Photo (will be returned) and phone no. appreciated. Box No 9198

LONDON Intensely individual introductions in and around London Call Naomi/Mark Close Encounters 0171 289 3777

LOVELY Victorian Cotswold Home with lovely educated lady owner, just 60, children fled the nest, now seeks professional kind 45-60 yrs happy gentleman to help entertain, wine & dine and bring love and laughter back and share walks, talks, sports, theatre, travel etc. Please Reply to Box No 8974

MANCHESTER - Wilmslow - Cheshire. Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies. Call Neil at Close Encounters on 0161 835 4050

MISERABLE old cow in west London area, requires fun loving man with good sense of humour to snap her out of it!!! Please Reply to Box No 9127

OUTGOING, attractive professional lady (40's) who works too hard & wants to play more. Enjoys all sports, eating out, drinking, music, travel, & socialising. WLTM good looking, kind man (40's) with similar interests & GSOH who'd be prepared to see how we get on. London/South. Reply with photo/letter to Box No 9116

PETITE human (23) French bilingual. Attractive & fun, Cherbourg seeks male friend. Photo plse. Reply to Box No 9219

SALISBURY-Bournemouth-Dorset Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies Tel Carin Close Encounters 01258 452344

SPARKLING Yorkshire lady (40's) looking for Humble guy whose zest for life will add extra dimensions to hers. She is stylish, solvent and enjoys dining out, sunshine holidays, the theatre, walking, tennis and Bridge. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 9168

SURREY Men 30-65 yrs required for our extensive ladies membership Call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783163

TALL, attractive 28 yr old girl, Christian, Oxford grad, would love to find partner who is genuinely kind. Reply Box No 9213

TUNBRIDGE WELLS -Canterbury - Kent. Men, you will be amazed at how many beautiful ladies we have at Close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

VIVACIOUS, attractive, refined and capable professional lady to compliment distinguished, sophisticated, under 50, seriously successful City/country gentleman. 5'10" +. Photo essential. Box No 9043

WARM, attractive, vibrant Somerset woman, young 40's, post feminist, post modern, postgrad, arty, cosmopolitan, sporty, self-aware seeks her match. Photo plse to Box 9207

WEST MIDLANDS. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of eligible, attractive ladies. Call Paul on 01543 410011

WINSOME Wench desires Dashing Daredevil, over 6', over 45, faster than Fangio, wittier than Wilde, to pursue me in Peak District. Box No 8968

GENTLEMEN

ACADEMIC, 54, tall, fit, responsive, humorous, into good food, left(-ish) politics, French films, and walking the hills WLTM warm, happy, tactile, thoughtful woman to share life's pleasures, Dorset. Box No 9202

AMIABLE male, 53, well-built, physically a little frayed at the edges, interests include sailing, music, countryside, seeks warm, easy-going slightly younger lady. London/ Essex/Kent. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 9205

GENTLEMEN

ARE you a mature single lady and a dedicated Christian? I am a sincere Christian widower, educated, musical, gentle, seeking lasting friendship, even a wife. Please send details with photo. Box No 9003

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, slim professional, 38 enjoys countryside, music, log fires, seeks attractive female soulmate, Lancs/NW. Reply to Box 9132

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, professional male, 36 yrs WLTM female to wine & dine. Please reply to Box No 8925

BATH Bristol area. Looking for that special lady, we can help you find her, personal interviews, profiles. Elite Introductions 01761 452543

BEE KEEPER country loving prof male. 74. WLTM cultured, sensuous, n/s lady 60+ for worthwhile relationship. Wales. Please Reply to Box No 8957

BRISTOL - Bath - Wells. Ladies, you will be amazed at how many attractive gentlemen we have at Close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

BUBBLY, slim, petite, 35 year old blue eyed brunette, WLRM sporty, good looking, professional man 28-38 in the London/Home Counties area. Photo please to Box No 9218

BUSY prof man, medium build, 55, widowed but had very happy and successful marriage. Committed christian, warm, caring, kind, affectionate, Open confident personality, n/s, varied mainly cultural interests, particularly music. East Midlands based. WLTM 40-50 something, prof/business lady of similar qualities. Attractive, feminine, with own interests, for friendship initially. Recent photo appreciated. Good letter and your phone number please. A.L.A. Please Reply to Box No 9038

CARDIFF-Chepstow-South Wales Ladies, it's simple! One call equals many, eligible, attractive gentlemen. Call Close Encounters free 0800 141 141

CARING prof tall, slim, n/s male, very handsome. 36 years, single, own house, enjoys sports and many interests WLTM slim attractive n/s female with Christian values 25-35 years to join me for this seasons skiing holiday and hopefully for lasting relationship. East Midlands. Genuine replies to Box No 9206

CARING, N/S single professional man, 34, seeks female companion for friendship/relationship around Midlands. Like travelling, cinema, music, countryside. Photo/letter please. ALA Please Reply to Box No 9152

COMPANY chairman, living in West End, very handsome with everything but unlucky in love, naturally faithful, thoughtful, kind, caring, generous, honest, sensitive & warm WLTM a lady with the same qualities for a genuine relationship. Must be sincere, truthful, youthful & stunning. Photo essential. Please reply to Box No 9197

CURVACEOUS,(14/16), tallish, bubbly, educated lovely lady (no hangups), 48+, N/S, free to enjoy full happy life is sought by successful Surrey businessman widower (strong character, romantic outlook (Virgo). Many interests include skiing, gardening, animals, home, travel. Photo & long letter. Box 9155

DECADENT, cloak wearing history and poetry reading wine drinking, music loving, eccentric smoker 50 seeks an alluring sensuous lady 40-65. Commitment not essential. London, S.East, E.Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 9015

DECENT Dick Dastardly seeks jolly mate Muttley for Derbys. Dales patrol. 40-50ish prof. Graduate, vis. ID youthful not essential. Please Reply to Box No 9106

DESPERATLEY Seeking Susan or You. If you're an independant bubbly n/s, blonde GSOH 38-43 and long to share passion for travel and usual leisurely pursuits with fun loving & caring 45 year old North Kent prof, reply with photo to Box 9153.

DREAM Team. Three smart handsome athletic profs 36-38 seek three gorgeous spirited ladies 24-34 ono for a fun triple date in Croydon (what?). Please Reply with photo to Box 9156

ECLECTIC restoration specialist seeks persevering sidekick/ soulmate, 26-35, nonsmoker, tall, sensuous, to share exasperation & enchantment of listed buildings. Box No 9130

ENTERTAINING businessman, tall, slim, intelligent, reliable, optimistic, easy going, enjoys all the good things in life from the countryside to cooking, seeks slender, stylish lady to prove to him that life can begin at 50! S.W. Herts/London/50 miles, Photo please. Reply to Box No 9121

EX-MILLIONAIRE found alive in North London with two kittens! Looks Jewish, 40 something, 6 feet - appears in good condition. Would the owner, a non-smoking, young, slim female who looks like an angel, walks like a Princess and acts like a lady, claim him immediately. Photo/tel no plse to Box 9171

EXOTIC (British/Egyptian background) man (51), healthy, humorous & fit, well travelled but buried in academia, WLTM educated kind lady for serious relationship. London based. Photo plse to Box No 9128

GOOD-LOOKING man, 43, university educated, varied interests including classical music and theatre, seeks attractive, sensitive, thirty-something woman for friendship, tenderness, joyful romps and lasting love. London area.Box No 9001

HANDSOME hedonist, London based 38yr old, seeks sophisticated lady. He: highly educated international businessman. She: sparky, loves travel, to wine and dine, aged 24-34. Write with photo and tel number. Box No 8772

HOLIDAY 2 weeks in October from London to SW France offered to mature educated lady driver. Box No 9166

HOME Alone. Managing Director, late 40's, tall, dark, attractive, affluent, loves sport, travel and all the good things in life. WLTM attractive woman 30-45 to share his pursuits. Photo essential. Box No 9208

INTERNATIONAL Businessman, recently divorced, with apartment in London & the Continent, enjoying a good life - restaurants, theatre, parties & travel (business & pleasure) to the Continent, California & the Far East, seeks that special person to share his interests & fun. You must be very attractive, between 21 & 35, photo & phone no. appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8958

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MISSION impossible? Attractive single gent, 31, seeks outgoing intelligent female for many pursuits. Save the last dance for me! Photo please. Please reply to Box No 9066

PERSONALITY,40's,gsoh, funloving,n/s,ok-looking?Me too.Up to 25mls from [illegible] else?).pref NW Lond. A note & photo pls.Box No 8922

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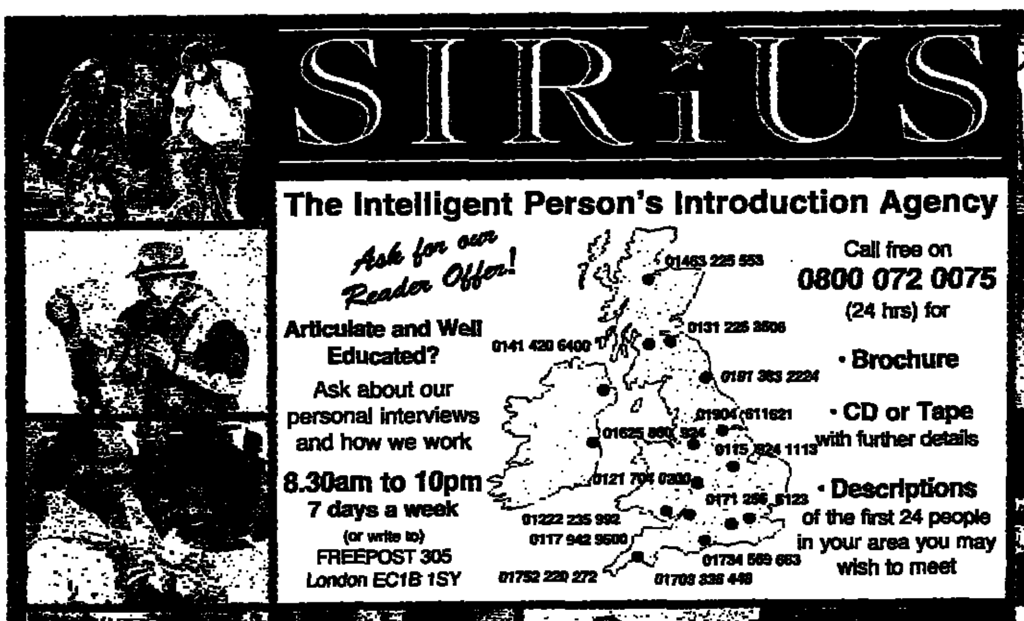

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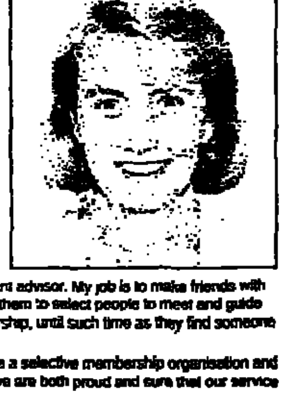
Hello! I'm Linda



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